

Graduate Programs Committee Agenda Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date: Wednesday, 3 November 2021: 2PM-3PM via
ZOOM

Attendance: Dena Kniess, Patrick Hadley, Neema Nori, Connie Barbour, David Boldt, Jim Yoder, Georgia Evans, Kyle Lorenzano, Mai Naito Mills, Marie-Cécile Bertau, Brent Gilles, Laura Caramanica, Charlie Sicignano, Martavious Gordon, Toby Ziglar, Daryush Ila, and Donna Haley

Guests: Jon Colley, Jon Preston

Call to order at 1:59 p.m.

I. Charges from Faculty Senate President for 2021-2022

- 1) Work closely with the Graduate Advisory Council and consult regularly with the Graduate School Dean - review curriculum proposals, but also be proactive in policy development
- 2) Recommend a policy on standardizing the credentials required for faculty to be designated as graduate faculty
- 3) Ensure faculty initiative in the creation and/or termination of graduate programs
- 4) Examine the relocation of GRAs from individual departments to the Graduate School
- 5) Program and Course Proposals

II. Course/Program Additions, Modifications, Deletions

ACTION ITEMS:

A. Richards College of Business (RCOB)

1. Department of Accounting and Finance

A. Master of Professional Accounting, MPAcc

Originator: Dr. Jeannine Pridmore. Presented by Dr. Jon Colley

Request: Revise Program

Decision: Motion Passes

Discussion: Dr. Colley explains revisions include list of courses that include both accounting and non-accounting, modify electives to reflect industry standards. ACCT 5253 and 5265 are being deleted entirely.

B. Master of Professional Accounting, MPAcc and MBA

Originator: Dr. Jeannine Pridmore. Presented by Dr. Jon Colley

Request: Revise Program

Decision: Motion fails, will re-route back to RCOB.

Discussion: Same revisions as with previous MPAcc. Replace language to reflect that applicants will also be required to apply and be admitted to both programs. Dr. Haley asks for clarification regarding full list of courses listed on the program sheet for the combined MPAcc/MBA program, as well as the specific courses being removed. Dr. Colley clarifies that it's ACCT 5253 and 5265 are the ones being

removed. Dr. Barbour recommends tabling this issue of the official program change, given confusion over deleting the two 5000-level courses. Dr. Colley will add course deletion for both 5000-level courses and course planner within Curriculog.

C. ACCT – 6265 – Accounting for Sustainability

Originator: Dr. Jeannine Pridmore. Presented by Dr. Jon Colley

Request: Add

Decision: Passes

Discussion: N/A

B. School of Communication, Film, and Media

1) **GFA 6000 – Proseminar in Film & Television Production for Creatives**

Originator: Dr. Brad Yates

Request: Add

Decision: Passes

Discussion: Clarifying that these are existing, pre-approved graduate courses offered through other USG institutions. We are merely proposing to offer these through our new M.S. degree

2) **GFA 6020 – Camera & Lighting for Cinematographers**

Originator: Dr. Brad Yates

Request : Add

Decision: Passes

Discussion: N/A

3) **GFA 6040 – Post Production for Storytellers I**

Originator: Dr. Brad Yates

Request : Add

Decision: Passes

Discussion: N/A

4) **GFA 7020 – Camera & Lighting for Cinematographers II**

Originator: Dr. Brad Yates

Request : Add

Decision: Passes

Discussion: N/A

III. New Business

A. Graduate School

1. GA Guidelines for Assistantships in Academic Affairs – Review

Originator: Dr. Toby Ziglar and Dr. Daryush Ila

Request:

Decision: Decision on the guideline itself not made; motion to initiate discussion/clarification by Faculty Senate to clarify the “policy vs. guideline’ issue

Discussion:

Dr. Ziglar reviews changes to the guidelines – multiple-year awards are allowed but are contingent on the availability of funds; hiring graduate assistants require that students are hired semester-by-semester (allowing more flexibility to terminate employment and divert to another student) but are awarded the assistantship for the entire year; assistantships are allocated contingent on funding; changed ‘department’ to ‘unit’ to clarify language.

Dr. Noori asks why this was changed rhetorically from ‘policy’ to ‘guideline’, and what the implications are. Dr. Ila clarifies that the original intention was to provide a guideline, and also to provide more flexibility to Academic Affairs; it is a living document that can be changed according to need.

Dr. Cécile-Bertau asks if this new guideline is simply an information item or something that is voted on and that we’re being asked to approve. Dr. Ila says that he’s unsure if a vote is required, this is intended as a resource for GPC. Dr. Ziglar adds that submissions for GA proposals are not yet open. Dr. Kniess highlights the importance of addressing Dr. Cécile-Bertau’s question given that Dec. 1st is the deadline for getting GA proposals in.

Dr. Cécile-Bertau brings up that current GA/TA policy in departments contradict the existing guideline, given that departments have authority over approving assistantships. She also asks for clarification about the multiple-year award component and if multiple years are possible. Dr. Noori echoes these previous concerns about it being a policy or guideline. He also adds that there needs to be clarification about what constitutes a ‘unit’ in accordance with SACS requirements. Dr. Barbour suggests changing the language to ‘academic unit.’ Dr. Ziglar clarifies that the language was kept as ‘unit’ not to as exclude the library. Dr. Ila questions this change to a change to ‘academic unit’ given that it could block assistantships that would otherwise go through. Dr. Noori suggests that by adding ‘academic’ to the language, it just clarifies who gets to participate in the decision-making process about how GAs are allocated. Dr. Cécile-Bertau asks to change outdated language (e.g. changing ‘program directors’ to ‘heads’), as well as including page numbers on the document. She also further reiterates that this document conflicts what is currently offered on the catalogue. Dr. Ziglar mentions that the course enrollment requirements need to be changed from 9 for fall, 9 for spring, and 6 for summer; this has now changed to 6 per fall, spring, and summer; he says that this is something that will need to be voted on given that this is a catalogue change.

Dr. Cécile-Bertau brings up language on page 63 of the document stating that almost all assistantships are managed directly by various departments and programs, and that programs should be contacted directly for more information. She says that this is a catalogue change, and therefore cannot manage given that departments have no say or budget to manage these changes.

Dr. Barbour explains that these changes are not curriculum/program related, and therefore this is a change that is happening and effectively a vote won’t change the outcome.

Dr. Cécile-Bertau says that certain aspects of these guidelines will indirectly impact programs and the catalogue. She also says that we need to make it clear to Faculty Senate that the implications of this guideline extends into curriculum and program changes.

Dr. Gilles says that we need to know if it's a guideline or a policy, and that we more so need to simply note that we acknowledged the changes rather than having a vote.

Dr. Kniess/Barbour motion to have a vote to move this onto the Faculty Senate for clarification and discussion. Dr. Noori responds that we still need to get clarification on the guideline/policy issue, and that the Provost's lack of clarification on this issue during this very call is problematic (at this point in the conversation, the Provost was not present).

Dr. Ziglar clarifies that approving this guideline/policy will not affect incoming graduate students given the aforementioned Dec. 1st deadline for GA proposals; decisions for incoming graduate students will not be made until May 2022, and perhaps even later given that these assistantships will be competitive based on this new guideline/policy.

B. Graduate Faculty Policy Status Subcommittee

Document in progress, meeting on Nov. 7th to further revise and move forward on this.

Call for a new head for GPC given that Dena has one more year left in her Senate term and will roll off as chair next year. Please email Dena (dkniess@westga.edu) if you're interested in serving as chair.

C. Secretary for Minutes

1.

IV. Announcements

- A. Next meeting is November 17th at 2 PM via Zoom – check your calendar for the link and send a proxy if you are unable to make the meeting
- B. Dena will also send out a Doodle Poll for the Spring 2022 GPC Meetings

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kyle Lorenzano