

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2020

Members Present: Allan, Craig – Geography and Earth Sciences
Azarbayjani, Mona – The School of Architecture
Brintnall, Kent – Religious Studies
Fenwick, Abbey – Kinesiology
Godev, Concepción – Languages & Culture Studies and Graduate Council Chair
Lachance, Joan – Middle, Secondary & K-12
Lai, Gene – Finance
Miller, Elizabeth (Liz) – English
Morse, Ed – Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Science
Mostafavi, Taghi – Computer Science
Reynolds, Tom – Graduate School
Suptela, Alex – PhD Candidate, BIOL and Graduate Student Representative (GPSG)
Truesdale, Angel – Atkins Library

Also Attending: Giddings, Kathy – Graduate School
Hall-Hertel, Katherine – Graduate School
Hammelmann, Colleen – Geography and Earth Sciences
Krause, Sandy – Graduate School
Morse, Janet – Graduate School
Names-Mattefs, Alaina – College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Watson, Johnna – Graduate School
Wyse, Matt – Faculty Governance, Office of the Provost

I. Report of the Chair – Dr. Concepcion Godev

A. Approval of the October 6, 2020 Graduate Council Meeting minutes.

- a. Lai made a motion to approve as submitted with a second from Morse. The motion was unanimously approved.

II. Report of the Dean – Dr. Tom Reynolds

Strategic Plan Survey - Dean Reynolds encouraged the Council to complete the Strategic Plan Survey being facilitated by Dr. Pinku Mukherjee and Dr. George Banks on behalf of Chancellor Gaber. It is very important for graduate education to be included in long range planning.

NSF Survey – this survey, being sent to faculty and students is about authorship as it relates to Research and Scholarship Enterprise. While it is important, it does not rise to the level of misconduct. Dean Reynolds also encouraged the Council to complete this as well stating that all participants would be included in a drawing for an Amazon gift card.

III. Course and Curriculum Proposals

A. Earth Sciences, M.S.

Originator: Sara Gagne, Geography and Earth Sciences

Graduate Council Assignments: Mona Azarbayjani, Craig Allan, Abbey Fenwick, Alex Suptela

Allan made a motion to approve the proposal as submitted with a second by Miller. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

B. Economics, Urban Economics and Real Estate Concentration, M.S. (Second Reading)

Originally presented at the March 10, 2020 meeting. Returned for revisions.

Originator: Craig Depken II, Department of Economics

Graduate Council Assignments: Mona Azarbayjani, Craig Allan, Abbey Fenwick, Alex Suptela

Allan made a motion to approve the proposal as submitted with a second by Miller. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

C. ESCI - 6222 - Quaternary Paleoenvironmental Sciences

Originator: Sara Gagne, Geography and Earth Sciences

Graduate Council Assignments: Mona Azarbayjani, Craig Allan, Abbey Fenwick, Alex Suptela

Allan made a motion to approve the proposal as submitted with a second by Miller. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

D. ESCI 6227 – Ecosystem Restoration – New Graduate Course

Originator: Sara Gagne, Geography and Earth Sciences

Graduate Council Assignments: Mona Azarbayjani, Craig Allan, Abbey Fenwick, Alex Suptela

A discussion took place with the following requests for revisions to the syllabus:

- Attach correct syllabus. ESCI 6220 was attached instead of ESCI 6227.
- Include graduate grading scale: A, B, C, U

Allan made a motion to approve the proposal pending revisions with a second from Lai. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

E. ESCI 6229 – Geochemical Tracers and Hydrologic Applications

Originator: Sara Gagne, Geography and Earth Sciences

Graduate Council Assignments: Mona Azarbayjani, Craig Allan, Abbey Fenwick, Alex Suptela

A discussion took place with the following requests for revisions to the syllabus:

- Attach correct syllabus. ESCI 6126 was attached instead of ESCI 6229.
- Include a Tentative Course Schedule with weekly breakdown.

Miller made a motion to approve the proposal pending revisions with a second from Allan. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

F. GEOG 5250 – Food, Migration and Place

Originator: Colleen Hammelman, Geography and Earth Sciences

Graduate Council Assignments: Mona Azarbayjani, Craig Allan, Abbey Fenwick, Alex Suptela

A discussion took place with the following requests for revisions to the syllabus:

- Include graduate grading scale: A, B, C, U

Allan made a motion to approve the proposal pending revisions with a second from Lai. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

G. GEOG 6226 – Landscape Ecology

Originator: Sara Gagne, Geography and Earth Sciences

Graduate Council Assignments: Kent Brintnall, Joan Lachance, Gene Lai

A discussion took place with the following requests for revisions to the syllabus:

- Revise to include the graduate grading scale: A, B, C, U
- Offer brief explanation of FRAGSTATS and elaborate on assignment.

Lai made a motion to approve the proposal pending revisions with a second from Miller. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

H. GEOG 6227 – Ecosystem Restoration

Originator: Colleen Hammelman, Geography and Earth Sciences

Graduate Council Assignments: Kent Brintnall, Joan Lachance, Gene Lai

A discussion took place with the following requests for revisions to the syllabus:

- Include graduate grading scale: A, B, C, U

Allan made a motion to approve the proposal pending revisions with a second from Lai. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

I. GEOG 6229 – Geochemical Tracers and Hydrologic Applications

Originator: Sara Gagne, Geography and Earth Sciences

Graduate Council Assignments: Kent Brintnall, Joan Lachance, Gene Lai

A discussion took place with the following requests for revisions to the syllabus:

- Include a Tentative Course Schedule with weekly breakdown.

Brintnall made a motion to approve the proposal pending revisions with a second from Lai. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

J. GEOG 8226 – Landscape Ecology

Originator: Sara Gagne, Geography and Earth Sciences

Graduate Council Assignments: Kent Brintnall, Joan Lachance, Gene Lai

A discussion took place with the following requests for revisions to the syllabus:

- Include graduate grading scale: A, B, C, U (replace Undergraduate information).

Lai made a motion to approve the proposal pending revisions with a second from Allan. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

K. GEOG 8227 – Ecosystem Restoration

Originator: Sara Gagne, Geography and Earth Sciences

Graduate Council Assignments: Kent Brintnall, Joan Lachance, Gene Lai

A discussion took place with the following requests for revisions to the syllabus:

- Include graduate grading scale: A, B, C, U

Miller made a motion to approve the proposal pending revisions with a second from Brintnall. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

L. GEOG 8229 – Geochemical Tracers and Hydrologic Applications

Originator: Sara Gagne, Geography and Earth Sciences

Graduate Council Assignments: Liz Miller, Ed Morse, Taghi Mostafavi

A discussion took place with the following requests for revisions to the syllabus:

- Include a Tentative Course Schedule with weekly breakdown.

Morse made a motion to approve the proposal pending revisions with a second from Allan. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

M. INES 8222 – Quaternary Paleoenvironmental Sciences

Originator: Sara Gagne, Geography and Earth Sciences

Graduate Council Assignments: Liz Miller, Ed Morse, Taghi Mostafavi

A discussion took place with the following requests for revisions to the syllabus:

- Attach correct syllabus. ESCI 6228 was attached instead of INES 8222.

Morse made a motion to approve the proposal pending revisions with a second from Allan. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

N. INES 8226 – Landscape Ecology

Originator: Sara Gagne, Geography and Earth Sciences

Graduate Council Assignments: Liz Miller, Ed Morse, Taghi Mostafavi

A discussion took place with the following requests for revisions to the syllabus:

- Revise to include the graduate grading scale: A, B, C, U
- Offer brief explanation of FRAGSTATS and elaborate on assignment.

Lai made a motion to approve the proposal pending revisions with a second from Miller. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

O. INES 8227 – Ecosystem Restoration

Originator: Sara Gagne, Geography and Earth Sciences

Graduate Council Assignments: Liz Miller, Ed Morse, Taghi Mostafavi

A discussion took place with the following requests for revisions to the syllabus:

- Include graduate grading scale: A, B, C, U

Allan made a motion to approve the proposal pending revisions with a second from Lai. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

P. INES 8229 – Geochemical Tracers and Hydrologic Applications

Originator: Sara Gagne, Geography and Earth Sciences

Graduate Council Assignments: Liz Miller, Ed Morse, Taghi Mostafavi

A discussion took place with the following requests for revisions to the syllabus:

- Include a Tentative Course Schedule with weekly breakdown.

Morse made a motion to approve the proposal pending revisions with a second from Allan. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

IV. Discussion Topics

A. Standardized Test Discussion – Johnna Watson, Graduate School

Watson provided the Council with a document which covered a Holistic Approach to Admissions in U.S. Graduate Education. This topic was presented at the October 22-23, 2020 Council of Graduate Schools conference. As mentioned in the document, this is not a new idea, but there is new focus on the intentionality of the process to ensure that equity, equality, and inclusivity are used to evaluate prospective students. In a true holistic review, no single data point is considered in isolation.

There are exceptions to the process.

- Certificate programs do not require test scores. But a program director can require a student take a test.
- Foreign transcripts can be a challenge because we are not comparing apples to apples. Each one can be different.

Test Waivers:

- Programs can request to waive the test, but you cannot waive for a specific person.
- Watson showed the numbers of Fall 2020 applicants with and without test scores. Half of the applicants that applied without test scores were approved.
- Increasingly, programs are waiving test scores altogether or making it optional.
- Chapel Hill is test optional.

Watson provided the Council with an example of waiver criterion from the PhD Program in Biological Sciences. The MBA program has four options for a person to be eligible to waive the test.

GPD Net has resources online to navigate holistic admissions.

<https://egem.unc.edu>, click on **Graduate School Data** (header across the top ribbon)

- Programs should be intentional.
- Programs should have a strategy for how they review and admit students.
- Some programs need the GRE because they don't have another way to measure quantitative fitness.

Several council members were in favor of a policy to “opt in” to require the test, especially with programs that do not have clear criteria in place.

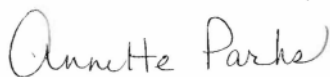
Chair Godev indicated that the Council will continue to discuss the role of standardized tests at the December meeting.

V. Other Business

The Graduate Council Secretary will be sending out meeting invitations that include the WebEx link and other instructions prior to each meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully,



Annette Parks
Graduate Council Secretary