

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

September 08, 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: Goodliffe, Julie – Graduate School
Hall-Hertel, Katherine – Graduate School
Krause, Sandy – Graduate School
Morse, Janet – Graduate School
Names-Mattefs, Alaina – College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Reisdorf, Bibi – Communication Studies (CLAS alternate)
Singer-Freeman, Karen – Office of Assessment and Accreditation
Watson, Johnna – Graduate School
White, Brian – Graduate School
Wyse, Matt – Faculty Governance, Office of the Provost

I. Report of the Chair – Dr. Concepcion Godev

- A. Approval of the May 5, 2020 Graduate Council Meeting minutes.
 - a. Mostafavi made a motion to approve as submitted with a second from Miller. The motion was unanimously approved.
- B. Approval of the September 1, 2020 Graduate Council Meeting minutes.
 - a. Miller made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted with a second from Brintnall. The motion was unanimously approved.

Godev communicated that she would email the list of Graduate Program Directors (GPD's) who represent the programs within the Graduate Council members' colleges and would reference the email she sent directly to the GPD's a few weeks earlier. She encouraged the Council to connect with their GPD's to promote communication between the programs and the Graduate Council.

Godev shared that with few proposals in Curriculog to review, this will be a good time to enhance discussion about graduate education. She thinks that programs may be too busy with online courses and delivery methods to engage in new or revisions to existing proposals.

Godev referenced the Graduate Faculty Bylaws, (link is below) page 5, which addresses the responsibilities of the Graduate Council. Please take time to review these.

<https://facultygovernance.uncc.edu/sites/facultygovernance.uncc.edu/files/media/Graduate-Faculty-Bylaws.pdf>

One of the responsibilities is the annual performance of the Graduate School Dean. Godev will be recruiting three members from within the Graduate Council to facilitate this review which will take place in the spring 2021.

Godev also mentioned another area on page 5 of the Bylaws that the Graduate Council will hold regular meetings within the academic year, but in addition, there could be a situation where a special meeting is called by the Graduate Council Chair or by the Dean of the Graduate School to address an issue of an important or emergent nature that falls outside of the regular schedule. Godev asks for consideration by the Council to attend if possible.

II. Report of the Dean – Dr. Tom Reynolds

Reynolds communicated that we are off to a good start to the semester.

Academic Affairs recently sent out an announcement about various faculty awards. Three of those awards are facilitated by the Graduate School. Nominations are submitted electronically. For more information, click on the link below.

<https://graduateschool.uncc.edu/deans-office/faculty-awards>

First Citizens Bank Scholars Medal Award – deadline is November 13, 2020

Harshini V. deSilva Graduate Mentor Award – deadline is November 6, 2020

The Thomas L. Reynolds Leadership Award – deadline is December 11, 2020

Reynolds stated that this year has been a roller coaster ride in a lot of ways, but even still, UNC Charlotte will more than likely surpass 30,000 enrollments this year, with 5976 being graduate students. He continued by sharing that the Graduate Council plays a major role in graduate education and encouraged the members to look for ways to carry information to their colleges as well as collect information to bring back to the Council. Attend Faculty meetings within your colleges to discuss topics that affect graduate programs and students. This will promote a robust conversation about research and graduate education.

III. Discussion Topics

A. Multi-Semester Research Credit – Sandy Krause, Assistant Dean, Graduate School

The proposal was made available to the Graduate Council prior to the meeting. Krause asked the Council to take the proposal back to their colleges for discussion.

- Challenge: faculty are challenged going back multiple semesters to find grades for graduate students doing research.
 - Faculty leave the university and documentation can be incomplete or vague.
 - Grades can affect Financial Aid, Veterans Affairs, International Student and Scholar Office (ISSO), as well as Funding and Fellowships.

- Other challenges:
 - Letter grades or the U grade can have punitive results.
 - Students who graduate may not finish the research funded by a grant.
 - If the student does not earn a grade, it can have implications, especially for international students.
- This proposed research credit policy would not affect capstone courses.
- The Council provided feedback to clarify a few areas of the document.
- Krause will revise the proposal and bring back to the next meeting in October.

B. Graduate Student Funding Committee Update – Johnna Watson, Associate Dean, Graduate School

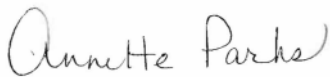
- Watson thanked the various members who have worked hard on this effort.
- She referenced the 2019-2020 subcommittee composed of Graduate Council members, Liz Miller and Heather Lipford, along with graduate student representation by doctoral student Alex Suptela and master's student Shannon Murphy.
- The committee was presented with challenges even in trying to get definitions in place to identify Teaching Assistants and Research Assistants. And because the need for funding is so complex, it became clear that there was a need for a steady group of faculty who understand the various components for funding, enrollment, etc.
- So with that criteria in mind, the eGEM group, composed of Associate Deans from each college, will take on this responsibility. This group is more privy to budgets and/or constraints and political challenges that can affect how the effort is focused.
- Watson will bring any policies and/or procedural requests before the Graduate Council as appropriate.

V. Other Business

None

Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 1:46pm.

Respectfully,



Annette Parks
Graduate Council Secretary