

University Graduate Council Minutes

Tuesday, November 21, 2023, at 3:15pm

Meeting held via Zoom.

Members Present: Drs. Manu Gupta, Jill Bettinger, Molly Bristol, Sarah Jane Brubaker, Seong Byun, LaMont Cannon, Andrene Castro, Jane Chung, Terry Jones, Dean Krusienski, Nicole Lee, Holly Morrison, Karla Mossi, Sarah Raskin, Jennifer Rhee, Rita Shiang, Kamden Strunk, Chad Taylor, Ms. Karen Cary, Ms. Dawn Fields Crichlow, Ms. Teri Dunnivant, and Dr. Jeffery Wilson

Guest: Meredith Baines, Beth Bukoski, Charlene Crawley, Aimee Ellington, Veronica Garabelli, Nicholas Garcia, Carole Ivey, William Korzun, Darcy Mays, Elizabeth Micalizzi, Hillary Parkhouse, John Quillin, Shelley Richards, Wendy Rodgers, Sarah Steele, and Jennifer Tennison

I. The October 2023 UGC minutes were approved electronically.

II. Old Business

College of Health Professions and College of Humanities and Sciences – APPROVED

Humanities-Dean's Office

Accelerated Program

- BS:MS SCI : Accelerated opportunities tab for science/professional science to medical laboratory science categorical

III. Action Items

College of Health Professions – ALL APPROVED

Department of Occupational Therapy

New Course

- OCCT 707 : Psychosocial Interventions in Occupational Therapy

Course Revisions

- OCCT 617 : Therapeutic Process in Occupational Therapy
- OCCT 692 : Assistive Technologies for Occupational Engagement
- OCCT 717 : Level I Fieldwork in Psychosocial Occupational Therapy
- OCCT 781 : Program Development and Evaluation
- OCCT 782 : Professional Development Seminar

College of Humanities and Sciences – ALL APPROVED

Robertson School of Media and Culture

New Courses

- MASC 600 : Managing Your Media Career
- MASC 679 : Writing Across Modern Media
- MASC 687 : Entrepreneurial Media Management

Certificate Revision

- CGR-MEL : Media and Leadership, Certificate in (Graduate certificate)

Program Revisions

- MS-MAC-INCM : Mass Communications, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in integrated communication
- MS-MAC-LP: Mass Communications, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in media leadership

Office of Health Sciences – APPROVED

Health Sciences-Dean's Office

New Course

- IPEC 560 : Interprofessional Collaborative Care for Older Adults

School of Education – ALL APPROVED

Education-Dean's Office

Program Closure

- MED-SPL : Sport Leadership, Master of Education (M.Ed.)

Concentration Closure

- PHD-EDP-EI : Education, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in educational leadership
- PHD-EDP-IL : Education, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in instructional leadership

Department of Counseling and Special Education

New Course

- SEDP 798 : Thesis

Department of Educational Leadership

Course Revisions

- EDLP 798 : Capstone Plan Implementation
- EDLP 799 : Capstone Completion

Department of Teaching and Learning

Program Revision

- MED-CRI : Curriculum and Instruction, Master of Education (M.Ed.)

School of Dentistry – ALL APPROVED

Department of Endodontics and Oral Diagnostic Sciences

Course Revisions

- ORPT 702 : Oral Diagnostic Sciences Orofacial Senior Selective
- ORPT 703 : Oral Diagnostic Sciences Pathology Senior Selective

Dental Special Topics

Course Revisions

- DENS 705 : CAD/CAM Senior Selective
- DENS 706 : Laser Senior Selective
- DENS 707 : Dental Sleep Medicine Senior Selective

Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Course Revision

- ORSG 701 : D4 Elective in Basic Concepts in Outpatient Anesthesia

Department of Periodontics

New Courses

- PERI 780 : Advanced Assessment and Management of Periodontal Diseases
- PERI 781 : Advanced Dental Implantology
- PERI 782 : Research in Periodontics
- PERI 783 : Advanced Research in Periodontics

Department of Prosthodontics

Course Revision

- PROS 700 : Senior Selective in Advanced Clinical Prosthodontics

School of Medicine – ALL TABLED

Medicine-Dean's Office

Program Revisions

- MD:PHD BIC : Medicine, Doctor of (M.D.)/Biochemistry, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) [dual degree]
- MD:PHD MIC : Medicine, Doctor of (M.D.)/Microbiology and Immunology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) [dual degree]

School of Medicine...continued

Medicine-Dean's Office – ALL TABLED

- MD:PHD NEU : Medicine, Doctor of (M.D.)/Neuroscience, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) [dual degree]
- MD:PHD PBP : Medicine, Doctor of (M.D.)/Physiology and Biophysics, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) [dual degree]
- PHD-NEU : Neuroscience, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Department of Human and Molecular Genetics

Program Revisions

- MS-GCO : Genetic Counseling, Master of Science (M.S.) – **APPROVED**
- PHD-GEN-QTHG : Human Genetics, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in quantitative human genetics – **TABLED**
- PHD-GEN : Human Genetics, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) – **TABLED**
- PHD:MS GCO : Human Genetics, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)/Genetic Counseling, Master of Science (M.S.) [dual degree] – **APPROVED**

Department of Physiology and Biophysics – TABLED

Program Revision

- PHD-PBP : Physiology and Biophysics, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

School of Nursing – ALL APPROVED

Nursing-Dean's Office

New Courses

- NURS 768 : Teaching and Learning in the Nursing Discipline
- NURS 787 : Curriculum Development in Nursing Education
- NURS 789 : Assessment and Evaluation of Learning: A Nursing Education Perspective

Temporary Suspension of Admission into a Concentration

- MS-NUR-AANP : Nursing, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner
- MS-NUR-FN : Nursing, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in family nurse practitioner
- MS-NUR-NLOS : Nursing, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in nursing leadership and organizational science
- MS-NUR-PQNP : Nursing, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner

School of Social Work – APPROVED

Social Work-Dean's Office

New Course

- SLWK 709 : Specialization Research for Understanding and Assessing Social Work Interventions and Services

IV. Minor Items Administratively Approve by the Graduate School

College of Health Professions – ALL APPROVED

Department of Occupational Therapy

Course Revisions

- OCCT 714 : Pediatric Occupational Performance II
 - Update to the course description
- OCCT 780 : OTD Leadership Seminar
 - Update to the course description
- OCCT 783 : Doctoral Capstone
 - Update to the course prerequisite

Department of Physical Therapy

Course Revision

- PHTY 520 : Clinical Education I: I Introduction to Clinical Education
 - Update to the course description

Program Revisions

- DPT-PHT : Physical Therapy, Doctor of (D.P.T.)
 - Update requirement for DPT program to more accurately reflect the required GPA for admission
- PHD-RMS-NY : Rehabilitation and Movement Science, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in neuromusculoskeletal dynamics [College of Health Professions]
 - Update to the curriculum requirements
- PHD-RMS-R3: Rehabilitation and Movement Science, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in applied physiology [College of Health Professions]
 - Update to the curriculum requirements

College of Humanities and Sciences – APPROVED

Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics

Course Revision

- MATH 505 : Modern Geometry
 - Update to the course description

School of the Arts – ALL APPROVED

Department of Art Education

Course Deletions

- ARTE 591 : Topics in Art Education
- ARTE 601 : Elementary Art Education
- ARTE 680 : Teaching Laboratory

School of Education – ALL APPROVED

Department of Counseling and Special Education

- CPG-DLD : Disability Leadership, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate)
 - Update to the admissions entry terms

Department of Educational Leadership

Certificate Revision

- CPM-EDL : Educational Leadership, Certificate in (Post-master's certificate)
 - Update to the semester of entry to align with division hiring needs

Department of Foundations of Education

Course Revisions

- EDUS 608 : Educational Statistics
 - Update to course description and removal of the prerequisite
- EDUS 665 : Assessment Issues and Design for Classroom Practice and Education Policy
 - Update to course modalities

School of Education...continued – ALL APPROVED

Department of Foundations of Education

Course Revisions

- EDUS 710 : Quantitative Research Design
 - Update to course description and prerequisite

Department of Teaching and Learning

Course Revisions

- ENED 601 : Young Adult Literature
 - Update to course modalities
- TEDU 537 : Inclusive Curriculum in Secondary Schools
 - Update to course modalities
- TEDU 540 : Teaching Middle and High School Sciences
 - Update to course modalities
- TEDU 545 : Teaching Secondary School Mathematics
 - Update to course modalities
- TEDU 547 : Teaching Secondary School Social Studies
 - Update to course modalities
- TEDU 548 : Teaching Secondary School English
 - Update to course modalities

School of Dentistry – ALL APPROVED

Department of Oral & Cranial Molecular Biology

Course Revisions

- OCMB 701 : Oral Microbiology and Disease
 - Update to the course title
- OCMB 702 : Infection, Immunology and Oral Cancer
 - Update to the course title

School of Medicine – APPROVED

Department of Microbiology

Program Revision

- MS-MIC-OB : Microbiology and Immunology, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in oral biology
 - Adding OVPR 601, 602, or 603 as options to fulfill scientific integrity requirement

School of Nursing – ALL APPROVED

Nursing-Dean's Office

Course Revision

- NURS 669 : Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Practicum II
 - Change of grading scale from Pass/Fail to Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory

Certificate Revisions

- CPP-AGA : Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Certificate in (Post-professional certificate)
 - Update to the time to degree and admissions requirements
- CPP-FNP : Family Nurse Practitioner, Certificate in (Post-professional certificate)
 - Update to the time to degree and admissions requirements
- CPP-PMH : Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, Certificate in (Post-professional certificate)
 - Update to the time to degree and admissions requirements

Program Revisions

- DNP-NRP-NLOS : Nursing Practice, Doctor of (D.N.P) with a concentration in nursing leadership and organizational science
 - Correcting typographical errors
- DNP-NRP : Nursing Practice, Doctor of (D.N.P.)
 - Update to the time to degree and admissions requirements

School of Nursing...continued – ALL APPROVED

Nursing-Dean's Office

Program Revisions

- PHD-NURD-N1 : Nursing, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in biobehavioral research
 - Update to the admissions requirements
- PHD-NURD-N2 : Nursing, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in health care quality research
 - Update to the admissions requirements

School of Pharmacy – APPROVED

Pharmacy-Dean's Office

Course Revision

- PSCI 607 : Introduction to Pharmaceutical Sciences From Bench to Shelf
 - Update to default grading scheme from PR to CO

School of Social Work – ALL APPROVED

Social Work-Dean's Office

Course Revisions

- SLWK 607 : Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups for Advanced-standing Students
 - Update to the course description
- SLWK 608 : Social Work Practice in Organizations and Communities for Advanced-standing Students
 - Update to the course description
- SLWK 609 : Foundations of Research for Social Work Interventions and Services
 - Update to the course description and title
- SLWK 703 : Mental, Emotional and Behavioral Disorders
 - Update to the course description
- SLWK 705 : Clinical Social Work Practice II
 - Update to the course description

Wilder School – APPROVED

LDWilder-Dean's Office

- BS:MPA CRJ : Accelerated opportunities tab for criminal justice to MPA
 - Removal of the forensic science concentration

V. Committee Reports

A. Committee on Admissions and Academic Standards

No report.

B. Committee on Internal Review

No report.

VI. New Business

General VCU Graduate School Admissions Requirements – GPA

The School of Business' Master's Program Committee requests that UGC considers revising the wording in the current policy regarding the undergraduate GPA requirement to make it official the fact that exemptions have been historically given for candidates who demonstrate clear improvements and qualifications that are not demonstrated in their undergraduate GPA.

Proposed language:

Required grade point average: For admission to graduate study at VCU, the Graduate School prefers an undergraduate GPA of 3.0. Individual programs may have more lenient or stringent GPA standards. For students with earned graduate degrees from accredited institutions, the graduate GPA may be the primary basis for consideration.

VII. Chair's Report

Thank you to the UGC members for all of your hard work this semester on the proposed changes to the general requirements of the Graduate School. At the last meeting on December 12, the UGC members will be voting on the proposed changes.

General VCU Graduate School Admissions Requirements – Recommendation Letters & Statement of Intent

The Graduate School is working with the Provost Office and Office of Admissions to create a draft implementation plan for the proposed changes to the letters of recommendation and statement of intent requirements.

Proof of English Proficiency

The English Language Program (ELP) housed in the Global Education Office has worked alongside the Graduate School and the Office of Admissions to revise the English Waiver requirements. This revision adds additional countries that qualify for a waiver as well as adjusts the Duolingo score to align with TOEL.

Special Actions

Dawn Fields Crichlow has been actively working with Records and Registration to have course overloads and incomplete grades removed from the Special Action Form (SAF) and handled by that unit via their existing forms for these actions. Records and Registration is already doing these actions at the undergraduate level. More information will be forthcoming with a goal to launch this new process next semester. Additionally, Dawn is continuing discussions to see viable options for removing some actions from the SAF form.

General VCU Graduate School Admissions Requirements – GPA

The Graduate School will do a review of peer and inspirational peer universities to see what language they are using in regard to GPA requirements for admission into graduate study. That data will be shared with the UGC members for discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25pm.