

University Graduate Council Minutes

Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 3:15pm
Meeting held via Zoom.

Members Present: Drs. Manu Gupta, Molly Bristol, Sarah Jane Brubaker, Seong Byun, LaMont Cannon, Andrene Castro, Jane Chung, Kimberly Compton, Terry Jones, Dean Krusienski, Nicki Lee, Karla Mossi, Sarah Raskin, Mary Beth Reed, Jennifer Rhee, Rita Shiang, Oliver Speck, Kamden Strunk, Chad Taylor, Mi Zhou, Ms. Karen Cary, Ms. Teri Dunnivant, Ms. Guleer Shahab, Dr. Joyce Lloyd, and Dr. Jeffery Wilson

Guest: Aaron Anderson, Blair Clemo, Dawn Fields Crichlow, Austen Gouldman, Nastassja Lewinski, Meera Mehtaji, Sarah Steele, and Jennifer Tennison

- I. The May 2023 UGC minutes were approved electronically.
- II. Old Business
None.
- III. Action Items
 - College of Engineering – APPROVED**
Engineering-Dean's Office
Permanent Suspension of Admission/Entry into a Concentration
 - PHD-EGR-E5 : Engineering, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in chemical and life science engineering

 - College of Health Professions – TABLED**
Health Professions-Dean's Office
New Courses
 - ALHP 765 : Data Management for Health Science Research
 - ALHP 795 : Teaching Practicum
 - Concentration Closure**
 - PHD-HRS-NR : Health Related Sciences, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in nurse anesthesia

 - College of Health Professions and College of Humanities and Sciences – TABLED**
Humanities-Dean's Office
Accelerated Program
 - BS:MS SCI : Accelerated opportunities tab for science/professional science to medical laboratory science categorical

 - School of the Arts – ALL APPROVED**
Arts-Dean's Office
Reactivate admissions into a Concentration
 - MFA-FNA-FD : Fine Arts, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in furniture design
 - Department of Theatre**
Course Revision
 - THEA 799 : Thesis

School of Business – APPROVED

Computer Science & Information Systems

Bulletin CIM Page Closure

- MS-CIS : Computer and Information Systems Security, Master of Science (M.S.)

School of Education – APPROVED

Counseling & Special Education

Reactivate admissions into a Concentration

- MED-SPE-ADCR : Special Education, Master of Education (M.Ed.) with a concentration in adapted curriculum

Wilder School – TABLED

LDWilder-Dean’s Office

Certificate Revision

- CGR-SUP: Sustainability Planning, Certificate in (Graduate Certificate)

IV. Minor Items Administratively Approved by the Graduate School

College of Engineering – APPROVED

Department of Biomedical Engineering

Program Revision

- PHD-BME : Biomedical Engineering, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)
 - Update to degree requirements to clarify oral examination requirements and added ENGR 701 post-candidacy research credits

College of Health Professions – ALL APPROVED

Health Professions-Dean’s Office

Course Revisions

- ALHP 708 : Health Science Ethics
 - Update to course title
- ALHP 712 : Instructional Design and Evaluation for Health Sciences
 - Update to course title
- ALHP 716 : Grant Writing for Health Science Research
 - Update to course title
- ALHP 760 : Descriptive and Univariate Statistical Methods for Health Sciences
 - Update to course title
- ALHP 761 : Health Science Research Design I
 - Update to course title
- ALHP 762 : Multivariate Statistical Methods for Health Sciences
 - Update to course title
- ALHP 763 : Health Science Research Design II
 - Update to course title
- ALHP 781 : Doctoral Seminar
 - Update to course title

Department of Rehabilitation Counseling

Course Revision

- RHAB 502 : American Sign Language I
 - Update to course modality to reflect face-to-face and virtual options

School of Medicine – ALL APPROVED

Medicine-Dean's Office

Certificate Revision

- CPG-BHS : Pre-medical Graduate Health Sciences (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate)
 - Update to electives and sample plan of study

Department of Family Medicine & Population Health

Course Deletion

- EPID 594 : MPH Practicum

Department of Human & Molecular Genetics

Certificate Revision

- CGR-CLG : Clinical Genetics, Certificate in (Graduate certificate)
 - Update to admissions deadline

School of Nursing – APPROVED

Nursing-Dean's Office

Certificate Revision

- CGR-CCR : Care Coordination, Certificate in (Graduate certificate)
 - Update to admissions requirements

V. Committee Reports

A. Committee on Admissions and Academic Standards

No report.

B. Committee on Internal Review

No report.

VI. New Business

Collaborative Discourse Management

Dr. Joyce Lloyd, Associate Dean, is leading a taskforce to make recommendations about professional development and policy changes that could lead to improvements in graduate student-advisor relationships. The taskforce recommended implementing the following:

- A graduate student-faculty compact signed by both parties that clearly explain the roles and responsibilities of each individual.
- Development of a conflict resolution and grievance policy for graduate students. A committee will be appointed in 2023 to develop such a policy and to vet it with stakeholders.

General VCU Graduate School Admissions Requirements

The Graduate School has evaluated the graduate admissions requirements of Virginia Tech, UVA, and George Mason University. Through that study, we have found that the general graduate admissions requirements at these institutions are less restrictive than [those at VCU](#). Our suggestion is to review our general admission requirements to see if there are areas of improvement to be in alignment with our peers.

Proof of English Proficiency

Review the current requirements to see if there are areas of improvement to be in alignment with our peers.

Special Actions

The Graduate School is currently evaluating our processes to streamline and reduce the administrative burden. Our first task is to simplify the special action form. We are also evaluating items covered on this form.

VII. Chair's Report

The Provost Office is evaluating the process of reviewing academic proposals. More information will be shared once available.

Jamie will be sharing a Google Form to all UGC members to collect feedback on the collaborative discourse management, admissions requirements, and special action items discussed at today's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm.