

Graduate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2018
MEETING LOCATION: 3007 Converse

Present:

Elvan Aktas, Shirley Andrews, Jeremy Bauer, Luis Bejarano, Serey Bright, Matthew Carter, JT Cox, Phil Dybicz, Iris Ellis, Bill Faux, Herbert Fiester, Matt Grant, Kelly Heckaman, James LaPlant, Shannon Lowe, Linda Most (proxy for Maren Clegg-Hyer and Dixie Haggard), Anne Price, Michelle Ritter

Guests: Jessica Powers, Ernest Smith, Joseph Jones.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. James LaPlant at 2:01 pm.

Minutes from January 18, 2018, were approved.

College of Education and Human Services

Curriculum Change – Library and Information Studies: Motion was made to approve; seconded. Linda Most stated they the MLIS program had recently completed a comprehensive review of their library and information center management track. This constituted the need to add two new courses as well as deactivate the cross listed MLIS 7270 which has not had anyone register for several years. The proposals were approved.

Revised Catalog Copy – Mathematics Endorsement for K-5 Teachers: Motion was made to approve; seconded. Updating admissions requirements. The proposals were approved.

Revised Catalog Copy – Science Endorsement for K-5 Teachers: Motion was made to approve; seconded. Updating Admissions requirements. The proposals were approved.

New Program – MAT in Education with a Concentration in Health & Physical Education: Motion was made to approve; seconded. This is a new program that has been constructed after the department did extensive research and analyzed the need for additional pathways. Through their research the department could not find any other similar programs in the country. Approximately 35 students have already shown keen interest in the program. The proposals were approved with edits.

Other Business/Topics from the Floor

1. Update on admissions staff: Rebecca will be out for approximately the next month and a half and therefore Jessica Powers is taking the lead on the admissions team. We will be down one staff member so everyone was cautioned to understand this with regards to processing time, etc. We are hopeful that VSU will purchase, through end of year funds, the Radius Application and Review modules which have a very nice dashboard that our end users should find very easy to use. This should allow for a seamless handoff of electronic files from the Graduate School to the various programs. Kennesaw currently uses Radius and have had lots of success at the graduate level. We may need some volunteers to pilot the program. So if you want to be a pioneer let us know.
2. Deficiency points, GPA, and dismissal: The question was raised as to whether or not we could change dismissal requirements regarding students who have a 3.0 GPA or higher but for whatever reason have accumulated enough deficiency points to be dismissed. The idea was discussed regarding changing the language in the catalog to state something along the lines of: "A student who earns 3 deficiency points and less than a 3.0 GPA will be dismissed." Concerns were expressed with such language. While a student might have above a 3.0 GPA, there could be good cause for dismissing a student who is making a grade of U repeatedly in a Foundations course or another course where the student is failing to demonstrate key professional competencies. In such cases, a program may wish to dismiss the student and overarching Graduate School policy should not prohibit this option. James stated that it has always been the stance of the Graduate School to allow the department to have discretion on whether or not to dismiss a student. For example, if a program coordinator contacts the Graduate School and asks that we not dismiss a student, most of the time we wouldn't dismiss after review. We will pull the graduate catalog and double check that the language does in fact allow latitude/discretion at the program level. James asked that we keep in mind that the dismissal appeals process is there for students who are dismissed and have grounds for an appeal. As long as the department supports the appeal, the Graduate School will usually process without reservation. Usually when we readmit a student they are informed that they can't earn less than an "A" or "B" in their remaining coursework or they will be dismissed again. We will pull the catalog and discuss at our March 22 GEC meeting in more detail.
3. Summer Graduate Assistantships and End of the Year Spending: James stated that we should be able to fund most, if not all, requests for summer graduate assistants. Fall assistants come out of next FY budget, therefore since May and June assistants come out of this FY budget we should be able to fund most of the summer 2018 GAs.
4. General discussion of transfer credit and if it is spelled out in the catalog the same way it is in the FAQ's on the website. We will pull the catalog and discuss at our March 22 GEC meeting.

FAQ that states maximum of 6 hours: <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/graduate-school/prospective-students-faq.php#a8>

Graduate Catalog defers to the specific program limitations:

<http://catalog.valdosta.edu/graduate/academic-standards-regulations/#Transfer Credit>

5. General discussion regarding university funding for graduate faculty, marketing support, leadership in the graduate school, and other implications in regards to the new position of Associate Provost of Graduate Studies.

Motion was made to adjourn at 3:25.

Ernest Smith

Ernest Smith, Recorder

James LaPlant

James LaPlant, AVP for Research and Dean of the Graduate School