

Graduate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2020
MEETING LOCATION: Online through Microsoft TEAMS

Present: Becky da Cruz, Herb Fiester, Linda Most (proxy for David starting at 3:30PM), David Nelson, Kelly Heckaman, Matt Carter, Grazyna Walczak (proxy for Luis Bejarano), Maren Clegg-Hyer, Keith Lee, Meagan Arrastia-Chisholm, Michelle Ritter, Dixie Haggard, , Theodore Uyeno (proxy for Mitch Lockhart), Zhong Lin

Guests: Ernest Smith, Kennise Wilcox, Rebecca Petrella, Sonja Jenkins, Crystal Marshall, Diane Holliman

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Becky da Cruz at 2:00 pm.

Minutes from October 15th were approved. Linda Most motioned to approve. David Nelson seconded. Theodore Uyeno abstained.

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Request for New Course – PADM 7230: Public Marketing: No prerequisites. Idea will be to one day collaborate with regional impact center to help counties on how to market and brand. Linda Most motioned to approve. Meagan Arrastia-Chisholm seconded. 12 voted to approve. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

College of Education

Request for Revised Course – SOWK 7820: Issues in Substance Abuse (Title and Prerequisite update: New title most accurately reflects what is taught. Linda Most motioned to approve. Keith Lee seconded. 12 voted to approve. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Revised Catalog Copy – Master of Social Work Degree-Advanced Standing (changing start to Fall/August): Advanced standing is for students who have earned bachelor's in social work and meet higher level requirements and curriculum is different than normal master's students (because they had courses in bachelor's courses). Changing start of program from summer to fall. Fall start only program (all Social Work cohorts will be fall start only). Linda Most motioned to approve. Keith Lee seconded. 12 voted to approve. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Request to Deactivate Course – SOWK 6000: Orientation to Advanced Generalist Practice: Linda Most motioned to approve. Keith Lee seconded. 12 voted to approve. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Request for Curriculum Change – Master of Social Work Degree (combining SOWK 6600 & 6610 into SOWK 6800): Will allow us to deliver program more effectively. Will be offered in Fall (course will be 4 hours and will be the first practicum generalist course). Linda Most motioned to approve. Keith Lee seconded. 12 voted to approve. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Request for Curriculum Change – Master of Social Work Degree (combining SOWK 6700 & 6710 into SOWK 6900): This is what the students usually would take in the spring. Linda Most motioned to approve. Keith Lee seconded. 12 voted to approve. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Request for Curriculum Change – Master of Social Work Degree-Advanced Standing (combining SOWK 6000 & 6100 into SOWK 7100): Deactivating SOWK but keeping SOWK 6100 (because regular standing students still need to take SOWK 6100. Tabling until we get catalog change in January.

Revised Catalog Copy – Master of Social Work (program of study updates): Linda Most motioned to approve. Keith Lee seconded. 12 voted to approve. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Revised Catalog Copy – Master of Library and Information Studies (updated course lists to eliminate student confusion/stress): Not changing hours. Updating to alleviate confusion that students had with the tracks (tracks don't show up anywhere on transcript and department realized they weren't using). Trying to give students more flexibility in deciding on areas of interest. Degree requirements still require 6 core courses and 1 guided elective and 6 general electives they can take any way they want. Dixie Haggard motioned to approve. Kelly Heckaman seconded. 12 voted to approve. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Revised Catalog Copy – Master of Library and Information Studies (removing MLIS 7540 as it is incorrect; MLIS 7425 is appropriate course for MLIS students in place of ITED 7400; SPEC 7000 added to SPEC 3000 graduate level option to meet cert requirements): There is a certification process if students want both credentials at the same time. After reviewing things with faculty in both programs it was found that some updates were needed that would meet the school media certification requirements. Also updating name of department where certification is held. Dixie Haggard motioned to approve. Kelly Heckaman seconded. 12 voted to approve. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Request for Curriculum Change – Teacher Leadership (Adding ACED 7150): Adding 3 hours to reach the 30 hour. Tabling until January GEC.

Sub Committee Report

- Graduate Student Success – Dr. da Cruz to give update. General meeting since there are a lot of new members. Reached out to Barrie Fitzgerald regarding retention reports. Group met 11/18 to discuss the retention reports. Will share more about this in January meeting.
- Dissertation Task Force – N/A
- Graduate Appeals – N/A
- Graduate Faculty Scholarship – Limited funding, no travel (registration for teleconference, etc.), update on approved funding applications (\$4,360) – Spring 2021 is next round (March 5th due date). Seeking any applications for Spring semester allocations.
- Graduate Faculty Membership – Update on application approvals – discussion over split decision application, update on policy language (temp 5-year and update on what groups qualify for full status).
 - Voted over all full faculty applications except Dr. Lin Chen – Linda Most motioned to approve. Dixie Haggard seconded. 12 voted to approve. Motion to approve passed unanimously.
 - Dr. Nelson discussed Dr. Chen’s application and the issue the sub-committee found with the application. Discussed the reasoning behind not approving (based on no VSU service at the graduate level). The other side of the argument is should his previous University experience should be counted toward service and taken into consideration on his Full status application. No request was made to review previous institution experience by Dean or Department head. Sub-committee will meet to work on what policy changes may be needed. 5 voted for full. 6 voted for temp only. Motion to approve for temp status.
 - Full status (expanding who can receive full status) to be tenured, tenure track, promotional track, or its equivalent. Temporary faculty status being moved to 5 years for non-tenure track (3 years for non-VSU or part-time). Deans council was happy with this recommendation. Dixie Haggard motioned to approve. Linda Most seconded. 12 voted to approve. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Other Business/Topics from the Floor

1. Graduation Application – No updates. It should be being made into DocuSign. Will give updates once we have more.

2. Graduate Symposium – Call for sub-committee (details for virtual symposium). David Nelson and Keith Lee agreed to serve.
3. Graduate Assistant Allocation Model – Dr. da Cruz to update. Competitive Allocation Committee is reviewing applications. Once awards are announced, recipients will be able to begin hiring GAs for the 2021-2022 year. The prospective GAs do have to be admitted to a graduate program before hired, but we can provide letters of intent for those prospective GAs.
4. Commencement – Updates/Faculty Marshals still needed. Commencement is December 14th at 7:30PM. We have 7 marshals set up so far. We still need 2-3 people. Will not be any line-up. Marshals will be responsible for directing students to seats. Will be volunteers on hand to help family members get to their 5 person pods.
5. Graduate Admissions Updates – Rebecca to give update. Spring enrollment is up at this point.
6. Dismissal Appeal & Admission Denial Appeal Forms – Docusign – Will send out link for testing.
7. At-large and Affiliated Membership Vote/Approval – Peggy Moch agreed to be an affiliated member. Christopher Downing and Matt Grant agreed to serve as at-large. Linda Most motioned to approve. Theodore Uyeno seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
8. AGS/SGA Updates – Justin Sanchez/Allison Carr – N/A
9. Items from the Floor?
 - Dr. Ritter asked about whether or not a faculty member can go for a degree in the same department that they are working in. GEC recommends to research other institutions, etc. Most agreed that there is the potential for conflict of interest and could cause issues. It was suggested that the CONHS develop an agreement/MOU w/ another USG institution to send/accept faculty interested in their relative programs e.g. VSU faculty interested in taking the DNP enroll at Georgia Southern and Georgia Southern faculty interested in the DNP take it at VSU.
 - Maren Clegg-Hyer recommended the writing course that Dr. Pat Miller offers. There was some interest from Public Admin and more to come on whether to make it a required course to help out master's students moving into doctoral, etc.
 - Dr. da Cruz discussed edits to website that are coming to streamline and clean up (will make it more digestible and better for marketing).

Motion was made to adjourn at 4:07PM by Dr. Keith Lee. Dixie Haggard seconded.

Next Meeting: January 21st (Next Academic Meeting January 11th)

Ernest Smith

Ernest Smith, Recorder

Becky K. da Cruz

Becky K. da Cruz, Associate Provost for Graduate
Graduate Studies and Research