

Report from the Graduate Council

February 22, 2019

submitted by Karen M. Kuralt

Approved Curriculum Items

18-6104	Change code to STAT	MATH 7353	approved 1/30
18-6105	Change code to STAT	MATH 7354	approved 1/30
18-6106	Change code to STAT	MATH 7355	approved 1/30
18-6051	Early admission	PharmD/MBA joint program	approved 1/30
18-6125	Catalog copy change	CISC program	approved 1/30
18-6100	Course suspension	BIOL 4406/5406	approved 2/13
18-6101	Course suspension	BIOL 4407/5407	approved 2/13
18-6103	Course suspension	BIOL 4425/5425	approved 2/13
18-6106	Course suspension	BIOL 4421/5421	approved 2/13
18-6116	Course suspension	BIOL 4201/5201	approved 2/13
18-6117	Course suspension	BIOL 4410/5410	approved 2/13
18-6118	Course suspension	BIOL 4428/5428	approved 2/13
18-6094	Description change	BIOL 4411/5411	approved 2/13
18-6095	Description change	BIOL 4419/5419	approved 2/13
18-6098	Course suspension	BIOL 4402/5402	approved 2/13
18-6099	Course suspension	BIOL 4405/5405	approved 2/13
18-1114	Title/desc change	ARHA 4308/5308	approved 2/13

Approved for Graduate Faculty Status

Nominees for Full Status

Zhiwei Yang	Doctorate	UTRC	CALS	approved 1/30
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Nominees for Affiliate Status

Ashia Hail Muhammad	Master's	UA Little Rock	CALS	approved 2/13
Allison Hiblong	Master's	Celebrity Attractions	CALS	approved 2/13
Mike Perry	Master's	UTRC	CALS	approved 2/13

Approved Policy Changes

Revision of academic clemency policy for graduate students, originally passed by the Faculty Senate on 5/5/17; revision approved by Grad Council 2/13/19. Full policy text below, with changes in bold:

Any UA Little Rock Graduate School student who has previously attended UA Little Rock and whose attendance at UA Little Rock or any institution of higher education has been interrupted for a period of **at least one year** may qualify for academic clemency providing he or she meets all of the criteria specified below and was not dismissed for non-academic reasons. Under this policy a Graduate School student may apply to have Graduate School grades and credits earned at UA Little Rock previous to the separation removed from his or her grade point average. Approval of a request for clemency requires the signature of the student's Program Coordinator and the Graduate School Dean.

After re-entering UA Little Rock following a separation of **at least one year** from any institution of higher education, a graduate student may request academic clemency at the Graduate School. The student shall specify the term(s) for which clemency is desired. The request will be forwarded, along with appropriate permanent record information, to the student's Program Coordinator for approval. The coordinator shall forward the request to the Graduate School Dean.

Clemency shall cover all credits earned during the semesters (i.e. Spring, Summer, Fall) for which clemency is requested. A Graduate School student may request clemency for up to two entire semesters. **If more than two semesters of credit are needed to return the student to good academic standing, a special petition must be filed with the Graduate School.** The student's complete record will remain on the transcript with the added notation of academic clemency received. Any petition for academic clemency must be requested and granted prior to the awarding of a degree. Once the degree is awarded, the record is closed and the academic clemency policy cannot be invoked. Academic clemency may be approved only once. For purposes of degree requirements, a student who receives clemency must follow the provisions of the Graduate Catalog in effect at the time of re-enrollment.

Other Issues Discussed

The council is continuing to clean up policies and procedures in anticipation of the HLC visit. The current priorities are listed below:

1. We are developing a procedure for implementing the new retake-and-replace graduate policy, which goes into effect in Fall 2019. The policy will not be applied retroactively, and a process is being implemented to ensure that program coordinators are informed of retake-and-replace applications. The application form will inform students that only certain types of courses are eligible for grade replacement. Dismissed students are not eligible; they must apply for clemency.
2. Revisions to the following policies: 509.11 and 509.12 (Graduation Requirements and Leave of Absence): 509.11 establishes 7 years as the maximum time to earn a master's degree and 10 years as the maximum for a doctorate. However, nothing is specified regarding what happens if the limit is exceeded. Coordinators do not have guidelines for working with students whose coursework has "timed out." The problem is exacerbated by the fact that students rarely formally file a request for a leave of absence as specified in 509.12. We expect to submit revisions to the Faculty Senate before the end of the semester.

Other issues discussed, continued

3. The council will revisit the issue of how probationary status affects the retake-and-replace policy described above and the revised academic clemency policy passed on 2/13.

4. The council discussed a request from Applied Science to allow a non-faculty member with affiliate graduate faculty status whose highest completed degree is a master's to serve as a committee member for doctoral dissertations. The consensus of the council and the graduate dean was that dissertation committee members should hold doctoral degrees in order to be signing authorities on the work of doctoral candidates. However, this practice does not appear to be codified in policy. The council will review language about doctoral committee membership at other institutions and consider presenting a new policy on this issue.