

Report from the Graduate Council

January 28, 2021

submitted by Laura S. Ruhl

Approved Curriculum Items

20-6091	Program change (Name Change)	M.A. PTW	approved 12/2
20-6101	Curriculum change (New Course)	COUN 7305	approved 12/2
20-6102	Program change (Other: e-campus)	M.S. in Health Ed/Health Pr	approved 12/2
20-6103	Program change (Other: concurrent M.A. Pub Serv)	SOWK	approved 12/2
20-6106	Curriculum change (New Course)	COUN 7304	approved 12/2

Approved for Graduate Faculty Status

Nominees for Full Status

Andrew Amstutz	Doctorate	UA Little Rock	CHASSE	approved 12/2
Zeid Nima Alsudani	Doctorate	UA Little Rock	CBHHS	approved 1/27

Nominees for Affiliate Status

Dana Radatz	Doctorate	Niagra University	CBHHS	approved 12/2
Jessica Wells	Doctorate	Boise State University	CBHHS	approved 1/27
James Hurst	Doctorate	UA Little Rock	CBHHS	approved 1/27
Trisha Rhodes	Doctorate	University of Nebraska Lincoln	CBHHS	approved 1/27
Elena Alikhachkina	Doctorate	Danone Corp	DAF	approved 1/27
John Czarnecki	Doctorate	UA Little Rock	DCSTEM	approved 1/27
Stephen Weinbeck	Doctorate	Savannah River National Lab	DCSTEM	approved 1/27

Approved Policy Changes

No approved policy changes in Dec 2020- Jan 2021

Other Issues Discussed

December 2, 2020:

Dr. Berry briefly thanked everyone for their hard work this semester. It was acknowledged that Zoom committee members are not easy. However, the Graduate Council has had great discussions despite being in a virtual environment. Dr. Berry also discussed what enrollment numbers were currently looking like for the spring semester. A reminder email was sent out to students to enroll for Spring 2021. The email received a positive response. The volume of responses has the Graduate School hopeful for enrollment numbers. When it comes to enrollment, the Graduate School is below the -10 percent mark right now. It was approaching a -15 percent. Things are looking better in terms of SCCH. Lastly Dr. Berry stated that currently, the students at the university now are enrolling in more classes. For the Fall semester the Graduate School was at -7 percent. This number was much closer to what was expected for the spring semester.

Dr. Erin Finzer spoke to the Graduate Council about the Prior Learning Assessment (PLA). The PLA Assessing allows students to possibly receive credit for their prior learning through: military credit, credit by exam, training credit, and portfolio credit.

There was a brief discussion of the retrenchment teach out plan. The Faculty Senate took the committee's comments into consideration. An appeal is in the process. Will be reaching out to students that are affected.

January 27, 2021:

Dr. Heidi Harris was elected as the new Graduate Council Curriculum Sub-Committee Chair.

Dr. Berry reported that graduate enrollment is down only 3% and SSCHs are only down 2.6%. The applications for the Graduate School are up by 30%, which is great and they are working to turn those into enrollments. Dr. Berry expressed his appreciation of the Graduate Coordinators and the Graduate School staff. He recognized them for their innovative approach and methods, which are helping the graduate school.

Dr. Kuralt indicated that the Graduate School may be hiring a Graduate Enrollment Specialist. This position will aid students in navigating the application process and keep in contact with possible applicants (following up with them). They may also reach out to current students that didn't enroll the next semester to see if they need assistance in some way and connect them with resources, as well as encourage them to come back. Dr. Kuralt also reported that the Graduate Student Association (GSA) will co-host an event with the Graduate School for current students to come "meet GSA and the Graduate School". The event will be Thursday Feb 4 at 6pm.

Dr. Berry also reported that graduate assistants are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccination. He also recognized the hard work that Mike Kirk and Sharon Downs have been doing to get information and vaccines to our Faculty.

Dr. Berry discussed teacher awards as a response from the students to the "We Heart Our Students" campaign. There will be awards from students for excellent undergraduate, graduate, and law professors. The GSA will be involved in the process for selecting the graduate professors.

Two items associated with graduate school policies were discussed:

- 1) Conditional Admission status: Sometimes students that are admitted conditionally don't have that designation removed from their record in a timely fashion. This is a problem when they try to graduate, and can result in a delay. After discussion, the approach to alleviating this problem will be that the graduate school will send out an email to program coordinators once a semester to remind them to remove those with conditional admission if they have met the appropriate conditions.
- 2) The 509.15 Probation Policy: The Graduate Council discussed the issues that have arisen with the current probation policy. Banner has difficulty managing the probational period because it is set up as a semester review, but the policy says that probation is for 12 hours. There was discussion of several different possibilities to address the issues that have arisen. Language for a policy change will be created and then brought to graduate council for evaluation, deliberation, and modifications.

Items the Graduate Council will be addressing in the upcoming meetings:

- Faculty Workload Policy - work on GC input to other groups working on these
- Program Coordinator report- work on GC input to other groups working on these

End of Report.