

Report from the Graduate Council

March 17, 2021

submitted by Laura S. Ruhl

Approved Curriculum Items

20-1021	Program Change (Admissions Reqs Change)	M.S. Electr and Computer Eng.	approved 3/10
20-1022	Program change (Deactivated)	Grad Cert in Estimating Mngmt	approved 3/10
20-1032	Program change (Multiple Changes)	M.S. Mech Engineering	approved 3/10
20-1033	Program change (Multiple Changes)	M.S. Mech Engineering	approved 3/10
20-1034	Program change (Multiple Changes)	M.A. Counseling	approved 3/10
21-1035	Program change (Deficiency Coursework Changes)	M.S. Computer Science	approved 3/10

Approved for Graduate Faculty Status

Nominees for Full Status

None during this period

Nominees for Affiliate Status

Ambar Rangu Magar	Doctorate	Philander Smith College	DCSTEM	approved 3/10
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Approved Policy Changes

No approved policy changes in Mar 2021

Other Issues Discussed

March 10, 2021:

Dr. Berry reported to the council that Grad School applications and admit numbers look good so far, and believe that the enrollment numbers will increase as well. Dr. Berry also announced the hiring of the Grad School's Enrollment Management Specialist, Nicole Godfrey. This specialist will be reaching out to students and working to convert recruits to students. The Grad School and Grad Council welcome Nicole!

Dr. Berry also reported that the graduate school is planning an in-person graduation ceremony (based on the success from last year). No guests are allowed at the ceremony due to spacing requirements, but the ceremony will be live streamed. There may be a couple of ceremonies based on the number of participating students, as well as a separate hooding ceremony for PhD students. Lastly, the Grad School is also doing a social media push and invite coordinators to like the Grad School's Facebook page to receive content.

An idea for graduate student ambassadors was suggested to the Graduate school that would contact students between admission and enrollment.

Dr. Kuralt reported that the graduate school is continuing to do recruiting visits (in person and virtual). They will be visiting Philander Smith College in the upcoming weeks for a recruiting event. They may reach out to coordinators if there is interest in specific programs.

Tugrul Polat, the UA Little Rock Director of International Student Services, was invited to speak with the Graduate Council about the International Student onboarding processes at UA Little Rock. The Council learned a lot about the steps for an International Graduate Students to attend (forms, visas, timeline, regulations) from Mr. Polat. The topic of speeding up the onboarding process was brought up, along with graduate assistantships for international graduate students. The school side of the process is fairly streamlined, but due to the regulation that international students can enter the country up to 30 days before the first day of classes, there is sometimes a delay between the arrival of the international student and applying for and receiving a social security number so they can begin working and being paid. Students and faculty should be aware of these timelines in order to prevent these delays.

End of Report.