

# Report from the Graduate Council

Sept 30, 2022

submitted by Nancy J.

## Approved for Graduate Faculty Status

### Approved for Full Status

Aryabrata Basu	UA Little Rock	Doctorate	DCSTEM	Approved 9/21
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### Approved for Affiliate Status

Wei Dai	Purdue Northwest	Doctorate	DCSTEM	Approved 9/21
Benjamin Garlington	UCA & UAPTC	Doctorate	DCSTEM	Approved 9/21
Lisa Mastrangelo	SUNY Albany	Doctorate	CHASSE	Approved 9/21
Kennedy Oyoo	Georgia Tech	Doctorate	DCSTEM	Approved 9/21

## Other Issues Discussed

September 7, 2022:

- Dr. Nancy Hamilton was elected as the 2022-23 Graduate Council Chair
- Dr. Heidi Harris was elected as the 2022-23 chair of the curriculum subcommittee
- Dr. Chelsea Bradley was elected as the 2022-23 chair of the policy and personnel subcommittee

The [2022-23 rosters for the two subcommittees](#) were populated. Members are:

Curriculum Committee		
Name	College	
Jennifer Holtz	CBHHS	
Bob Lytle	CBHHS	
Heidi Harris	CHASSE	Chair
Lynne Larsen	CHASSE	
Donna Rose	Ottenheimer	
Roger Dorsey	CBHHS	
Kamran Iqbal	DCSTEM	
Dana Steele	Staff	
Barbara Brewer	Staff	
Christine Jones	GSA Rep	

Policy and Personnel Committee		
Name	College	
Sung-kwan Kim	CBHHS	

Catherine Crisp	CBHHS	
Chelsea Bradley	CHASSE	Chair
Wenjun Wang	CBHHS	
Daryl Tate	CHASSE	
Khodakovskaya	DCSTEM	
Wei Zhao	DCSTEM	
John Nichols	DCSTEM	
Jerry Stevenson	CHASSE	
Imraul Emmaka	GSA Rep	

DCSTEM needs to elect a representative to replace Dr. Laura Ruhl-Whittle. This representative should be assigned to work with the curriculum subcommittee.

Dr. Kuralt reported that:

- Grad enrollment is +5% compared to this time last year.
- 26 “Get Your Feet Wet” scholarships were awarded for Fall 2022.
- The first grad coordinators meeting of the year will be Wed., Sept. 28, at 3 pm.
- The Grad School is looking for students to spotlight on social media as ambassadors for their graduate programs. Grad Council members and coordinators should email students who they think would be good program representatives to ask them if they would be willing to participate. Grad students will be asked to discuss why they decided to pursue a graduate degree and what they like about their particular grad programs. Volunteering students should contact Dr. Kuralt ([kmkuralt@ualr.edu](mailto:kmkuralt@ualr.edu)) for details about participating.
- Dr. John Nichols urged the council to renew last year’s discussion about setting guidelines for terminating the relationship between a graduate student and the student’s dissertation or thesis committee members. Faculty members do not currently have clear rights or protections if the relationship becomes contentious. Dr. Hamilton agreed this will be a priority for the policy and personnel committee.
- Dr. Mariya Khodakovskaya reminded the council that at the end of Spring 2022, the group had voted to bring the issue of graduate faculty workload to the Faculty Senate. Dr. Ruhl-Whittle had agreed to draft some language to present, but she is no longer working at UA Little Rock. Dr. Hamilton suggested that the policy and personnel subcommittee use the [Grad Council minutes from March 9, 2022](#) as a starting place for drafting a formal statement to be presented to the Senate’s executive committee for placement on the agenda.

September 21, 2022:

- Dr. Berry announced that a new admissions application (Slate) will be going live sometime this semester. The student side of the application will go live first. Initially, coordinators will still use the current process for reviewing applications and submitting decisions, but in a later phase, coordinators will be able to review applications directly in Slate, reducing the need for working applications in ARGOS and ImageNow. Dr. Hamilton asked whether Slate has the potential to replace not only ARGOS and ImageNow for admissions, but also DegreeWorks for tracking student progress. Dr. Berry indicated that Slate offers only admission and communication functions. DegreeWorks will continue to be our primary platform for advising and graduation checkout, at least

until we know how it integrates with Workday Student.

- Dr. Kuralt reminded the group of the upcoming coordinators meeting on Sept. 28, where Dr. Carrie Phillips will be presenting a new on-demand printing service that will speed up the creation of program publicity materials. Dr. Berry added that the Grad School will have some funds available for programs who need financial support with printing costs. The Graduate School is shifting its recruiting strategy to place more emphasis on individual graduate programs and helping students connect with program coordinators. Dr. Crisp asked about how recruiting funds would be distributed among programs, specifically about whether a program could decline recruiting funds and make those funds available to other programs that might need recruiting help. Dr. Berry confirmed that funds can be redistributed to help programs with greater recruiting needs.
- Dr. Kuralt requested that Grad Council members help the Grad School to find students and alumni who might be good representatives of their graduate programs. The Graduate School would like to create student and alumni spotlight features for social media to attract prospective students.
- Dr. Hamilton asked whether the Grad School is tracking the retention rate of students who are awarded the “Get Your Feet Wet” (GYFW) scholarship. Dr. Kuralt stated that retention is being tracked. After the first semester the awards were made, approximately 14 out of 22 awarded students persisted to a second semester. Later this semester, the Grad School will check again on the status of the scholarship winners from Fall 2021 and will add retention data for the Spring 2022 winners. Dr. Hamilton followed up with a question about whether the Grad School communicated with Get Your Feet Wet winners between the semester they were awarded the funds and their second semester. Dr. Kuralt replied that there was no special personalized outreach; these students received the same registration reminders as other students. Dr. Hamilton suggested that it might be helpful for the Grad School and/or coordinators to follow up with these students to see what additional support they may need. The CARE Team might be able to point them to valuable resources. Dr. Stevenson asked whether Grad School could provide a report about which students received the GYFW awards and which programs they were affiliated with. Dr. Kuralt and Dr. Berry agreed to share future GYFW reports with Grad Council. Dr. Crisp requested that the Grad School also continue copying coordinators on the award letters. Dr. Hamilton noted that this would help coordinators with follow-up, and Dr. Crisp commented that it might be appropriate to invite these students to participate in student spotlight publicity.
- Dr. Kuralt noted that over the summer, the Grad School reached out to students who were on probation and had not registered for Fall 2022. These students were called personally to ask if they needed information or assistance with appealing SAP letters from Financial Aid, since loss of financial aid can prevent many students from registering. These phone calls were a positive experience that resulted in some students getting registered, while others said it helped them plan for how to return when they are ready. This procedure will continue in future semesters.
- Dr. Kuralt reported that Grad Student Association (GSA) attendance has greatly increased over the past two semesters, reflecting more active engagement of graduate students across the university than in previous years.

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End of Report.