

Graduate Council Monthly Report

April 28, 2023

Submitted by Nancy J. Hamilton

Kudos and Congratulations:

3/29/23

Dr. Harris offered kudos to the staff of the Graduate School for their attention to detail and support of program coordinator needs, particularly with regard to the implementation of Slate.

4/26/23

Dr. Crisp: to Paula Baker, Karen Kuralt, and Dana Steele for support to grad coordinators; to Bob Lytle for his Faculty Excellence in Teaching award.

Dr. Kushner: to the organizers and presenters at the Research and Creative Works Expo; a particularly good caliber of student research this year.

Dr. Hamilton: to all Grad Council members for their dedication and work ethic, and to all who support the work of the Grad Council -- "to all the people in all the roles for all the help".

Dr. Berry: to all Grad Council members, especially Drs. Hamilton, Harris, and Bradley for their leadership. Attendance and participation have been exemplary this year.

Reports of the Curriculum Committee:

3/29/23

No Curriculum Approved

4/12/23

23-1009 MA in Art (Visual Art and Art History) program deactivation
23-1012 School of Education TCED 5321 prereq change

The PCF deactivating the MA in Art was passed on condition that a note be included supporting the proposal of a new MFA program by the Art Dept. in the near future.

4/26/23

No Curriculum Approved

Reports of the Policy and Personnel Committee:

Name	Employment	Ed. Level	Dept/Sch	College	Approval Date
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Approved for Graduate Faculty Full Status:

Suzanne Coble	UA Little Rock	Doctorate	Criminal Justice	CBHHS	3/29/23
Theresa Flowers	UA Little Rock	Ph.D.	Social Work	CBHHS	4/26/23
Raffaella Lesch	UA Little Rock	Ph.D.	Biology	DCSTEM	4/26/23

Approved for Graduate Faculty Affiliate Status:

Courtney Bradford	Mosaic Templars Ctr.	Doctorate	History	CHASSE	3/29/23
Eric Flowers	EAB (Washington, DC)	Doctorate	School of Education	CHASSE	3/29/23
Deborah King	Phillips County CC	Doctorate	School of Education	CHASSE	3/29/23
Josh Wilson	Ozarka College	Doctorate	School of Education	CHASSE	3/29/23
Anita Neal	UA Little Rock	MSW	Social Work	CBHHS	4/26/23
Millicent Carmouche	U. of South Alabama	Ph.D.	School of Education	CHASSE	4/26/23
Rhonda Lovelace-Tilmon	Philander Smith	Ed.D.	School of Education	CHASSE	4/26/23
Jacqueline Pryor	UAPB	Ph.D.	School of Education	CHASSE	4/26/23
Rachelle Savitz	East Carolina Univ.	Ph.D.	School of Education	CHASSE	4/26/23

Notes to 4/26/23 Approvals: Anita Neal was originally nominated for full status, but approved for affiliate. Rachelle Savitz was approved pending signatures on her paperwork. Hen Leibovitz was nominated for affiliate

status but not recommended by the subcommittee due to lack of a graduate degree.

3/29/23

Dr. Nichols presented a policy draft addressing what should happen when a graduate advisor is sued (or has been threatened to be sued) by a student under their supervision.

Dr. Hamilton noted that the draft was formatted as a resolution rather than as a legislative motion, which would make it non-binding if forwarded to Faculty Senate.

Dr. Nichols moved that the draft be referred back to the policy subcommittee and returned to the agenda for April 12.

4/12/23

Dr. Nichols presented a revised draft of a policy concerning faculty rights when grad students threaten or pursue legal action.

GSA officers Imraul Emmaka and Rebekah White expressed concerns that the draft offers protections for faculty only. They noted that grad students are unfairly penalized by the policy, because taking any legal action, even if justified, results in loss of access to all of their work and prevents them from earning their degree.

Dr. Berry noted that this is a complicated issue, because both sides have rights in faculty/student disputes. Not only must the university not infringe student rights, but assertions regarding intellectual property are a problem because the intellectual property belongs to the university, not the faculty member or the student.

Dr. Lytle noted that if a student sues the entire department, that effectively makes it impossible for the student to go forward with the degree.

Dr. Nichols expressed concerns that students in extreme conflicts are a risk in labs where they could damage equipment or materials or sabotage results. He stated that in cases of shared research, colleagues in the discipline are best suited to determine what parts of the research project belong to which researchers. Dr. Khodakovskaya also noted that the PI is responsible for ensuring safety for the entire research team in the lab, which is difficult when one researcher is involved in an extreme conflict.

Dr. Lytle pointed out that some wording in the policy might need to be revised to make it clear that the policy applies only to extreme cases, particularly regarding who gets to make decisions about ownership of research data and products. Dr. Crisp agreed, observing that issues of ownership should be spelled out at the beginning of the research process, not at the point a conflict occurs. She suggested the council might consider developing forms to spell this out effectively for different disciplines.

Because of the legal complexities involved, the council members discussed pros and cons of submitting the policy draft to university legal counsel prior to submitting it to Faculty Senate. At the end of the discussion, Dr. Crisp moved that the draft be submitted to university counsel with request for feedback by April 26. The motion was seconded by Dr. Lytle and subsequently passed.

Dr. Hamilton agreed to forward the draft to university counsel and thanked all speakers in the discussion for their thoughtful comments and courage in discussing a difficult issue.

4/26/23

Dr. Hamilton mentioned that University Counsel hasn't returned feedback on the policy submitted after last meeting.

Dean's Reports:

3/29/23

Dr. Berry:

The Research and Creative Works Expo is scheduled for April 21 from 1 to 4 pm in the Jack Stephens Center. Registration is still open for a few more days as of this report. All faculty are encouraged to attend to celebrate the research and creative achievements of both undergrad and graduate students.

Dr. Kuralt:

The GSA is sponsoring a workshop on cybersecurity for researchers on March 30 at 4 pm, a dissertation and thesis formatting workshop on April 11 at 6 pm, and a bowling night outing at Professor Bowl on April 13 at 6:30 pm.

4/12/23

Dr. Berry: Research and Creative Works Expo is scheduled for Friday, Apr. 21. All graduate faculty are encouraged to sign up to serve as judges. Graduate students are also allowed to serve as judges for undergrad projects.

Dr. Kuralt: All graduate programs should review their catalog copy and submit edits via the [Catalog and Degree Works Edits Form](#) by May 24. She is happy to consult with coordinators who have questions about which changes are purely editorial vs. which changes require program change forms.

All graduate faculty nomination forms requiring approval before Fall 2023 must be submitted by next week.

4/26/23

Dr. Berry: Grad School commencement is May 13 at 2 pm; please come out to celebrate the accomplishments of our grad students. Thanks to Dr. Kuralt and Dr. Kushner for serving as faculty marshals.

Thanks also to all those who attended and served as judges for the Research Expo.

Mariel Garcia will be starting in the Grad School next week as our second admissions counselor.

Grad School is hosting a Tailgate Night at the UA Little Rock vs. UCA baseball game at Dickey-Stephens park on Tuesday, May 16. Please come out to enjoy the game and recruit new students!

Dr. Crisp asked for confirmation regarding the GA stipend increase. Dr. Berry confirmed that GAs with a master's degree will earn a minimum of \$8000 for 9 months if they are 20-hour GAs.

Dr. Kuralt: A team from the Grad School, International Student Services, and the Office of Communications will be working on better support for international students over the summer.

Dr. Kuralt commended the GSA for its activities this year and asked all council members to encourage their students to participate in the upcoming elections. Nominations are due May 2.

Open Forums:**3/29/23**

Dr. Crisp discussed problems that occurred during the early hours of priority registration for Summer and Fall 2023. A technical glitch prevented many students from registering between 6 and 9:30 am, and communication about the issue did not begin on a wide scale until 9 am. After later speaking with Dr. Finzer and Dana Steele, Dr. Crisp has more context for how this issue occurred and is optimistic that communication will be improved going forward. Dr. Finzer noted that members of IT Services had been working on the problem since 5:15 am, and that they are investigating ways to automate priority registration in future semesters.

4/12/23

Dr. Nichols thanked the council members for their responses to his policy draft. Imraul Emmaka announced the GSA Bowling Night event scheduled for April 13.
