

UA Little Rock Graduate Council
November 11, 2020, 3:00 p.m.
Zoom Virtual Meeting

Minutes

Members Present:

Laura Ruhl, John Nichols, Lynne Larsen, Trisha Rhodes, Nicole Godfrey, Chelsea Bradley, Mariya Khodakovskaya, David Manry, Tracy Cook, Jennifer Holtz, Natalie Snow, Sung-Kwan Kim, Donna Rose, Jerry Stevenson, Kamran Iqbal, Carolyn Turturro, Roger Dorsey, Nancy Hamilton

Members Absent:

Qingfang He, Gary Geissler, Jim Grover, T. Greg Barrett, Heidi Harris

Others Present:

Paula Baker, Karen Kuralt, Dana Steele, Ross Bradley, Brian Berry, Jane Wayland, Erin Finzer

Meeting called to order at **3:02 p.m.**

Old Business

- Approved minutes from October 28, 2020 meeting.

New Business

- **Report of the Curriculum Committee**

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| 20-1157 | TINV APPROVED | 4303/5303 | Suspension |
| 20-1160 | TINV APPROVED | 5302 | Multiple Changes |
| 20-1214 | RHET DUPLICATE/ Not Voted On | 4370/5370 | New Course |
| 20-1215 | RHET DUPLICATE/ Not Voted On | 5319/5319 | New Course |

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| 20-6017 | COUN APPROVED | 7367 ***Will need a new course number. Course number is already in use. | New Course ***Discussion about course duplication. |
| 20-6026 | Applied Communication/ M.A. Applied Communication Studies APPROVED | | Program Change |
| 20-6027 | SYEN/ENSS APPROVED | | Program Change ***Will need to change code and concentration code. Will need an advanced standing and/or a student attribute. Change of the title/name. |
| 20-6028 | SYEN APPROVED | 8301 | New Course |
| 20-6029 | IFSC APPROVED | 7321 | Description Change |
| 20-6030 | IFSC/MSIS/MSOL APPROVED | | Admissions Requirement Change |
| 20-6045 | CPSC APPROVED | 7100 | Description Change |
| 20-6046 | CPSC APPROVED | 7200 | Description Change |
| 20-6047 | CPSC APPROVED | 7300 | Description Change |
| 20-6048 | CPSC APPROVED | 7400 | Description Change |

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| 20-6049 | CPSC APPROVED | 7500 | New Course |
| 20-6050 | CPSC APPROVED | 7600 | New Course |
| 20-6051 | CPSC APPROVED | 7700 | New Course |
| 20-6052 | CPSC APPROVED | 7800 | New Course |
| 20-6053 | CPSC APPROVED | 7900 | New Course |
| 20-6071 | CNSL APPROVED | 7308 | Prerequisite Change ***Not enforced in BANNER. Do not restrict class. Prereq override. |
| 20-6072 | COUN APPROVED | 7369 | Prerequisite Change ***Not enforced in BANNER. Do not restrict class. Prereq override. |
| 20-6073 | COUN APPROVED | 7366 | New Course |
| 20-6074 | COUN APPROVED | 7367 ***Will need a new course number. Course number is already in use. | New Course ***Discussion about course duplication. |
| 20-6075 | CNSL APPROVED | 7307 | Prerequisite Change ***Not enforced in BANNER. Do not restrict class. Prereq override. |

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| 20-6076 | COUN APPROVED | 7365 | Prerequisite Change ***Not enforced in BANNER. Do not restrict class. Prereq override. |
| 20-6077 | CNSL APPROVED | 7302 | Prerequisite Change ***Not enforced in BANNER. Do not restrict class. Prereq override. |

- **Report of the Policy and Personnel Committee**
 - **Nominees for Graduate Faculty Affiliate Status:**

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| Sherry Rankins- Robertson APPROVED | Doctorate | UCF | CHASSE |
| Christopher Drapeau APPROVED | Doctorate | Indiana University Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health / Indiana Family and Social Services Administration | CHASSE |
| Mary Dunaway APPROVED | Doctorate | UA Little Rock | CBHHS |

- **Nominees for Graduate Faculty Full Status:**

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| Melvin Beavers APPROVED (One time exception. Serving on one thesis committee.) | Doctorate | UA Little Rock | CHASSE ***Discussion about challenging application rules and following application rules. This applicant is considered an exception by the department. Committee members |
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want to clarify the current policy at a future meeting.

Seunghyun Kim
APPROVED

Doctorate

UA Little Rock

CBHHS

Dean's Report

Discussion About Enrollment

- Enrollment is on the Graduate School's mind.
- Enrollment isn't looking great for the spring semester. Not sure if it is because of COVID-19.
- Grad coordinators: please get students enrolled ASAP.
- Hope to have a good picture of the spring semester by the end of this semester. Hoping to know how we can plan versus react to enrollment numbers.
- Looking for ways to strengthen connections with colleges in the area.
- Meeting with a marketing firm to increase our advertising.
- Have been trying virtual fairs, but attendance is low.
- Going to have to get creative with how to build relationships with other colleges to get students enrolled.

Discussion About GFS Applications

- Working on streamline status for GFS. Planning to get an electronic process going. Having this process will help with streamlining everything and getting people notified.
- Currently applications are hard to track. GFS forms are being emailed everywhere.
- The goal is to make the application process more efficient.
- Hoping to bring more information about an improved GFS application process to the next meeting so everyone can review it and weigh in.

Open Forum

- Continue discussion of the [faculty workload policy](#) and [program coordinator report](#).
(Postponed)
- **Review and discuss the Retrenchment teach out plans.**

GC & MS Systems Engineering

- Committee didn't have much to say. Appeared to be okay with the changes. They weren't sure how it affects the department due to their departments not truly being affected by these kinds of changes.

MASL

- Committee thought the changes were reasonable. No questions were asked.

MAIS

- **Comment:** Students have been given a date to finish. Seems arbitrary. Dates seem set. Concern of truncating what they have been promised by the catalog might be problematic to students in this program.
- The real issue is the 2 IDST courses. Trying to get these two courses in might be an issue. Concerns about having the faculty to teach students out of the program.
- Believes we should be flexible in this program and all programs with providing the sources needed for students to complete their degree.

EDAS

- Discussion about potential students to transfer to other universities due to the low number of doctoral courses. The thought is that if students cannot finish the program at UA Little Rock, they will be helped to find a new university to complete their degree.
- Discussion about students being communicated with to complete their coursework.
- Concerns about how many students are being impacted by the situation due to COVID and other life factors. Committee was reassured that reputable and reasonable attempts to reach out to these students have occurred.

MA/ EdD Higher Education

- Discussion about contacting students in the program and how to take care of individuals that have been in contact.
- **Comment:** Student level of anxiety is high at the moment. Students are worried. Current students are concerned about the condensed timeline due to dealing with coursework, COVID-19, and life in general.
- Concern about a one semester life emergency. **Question:** Can there be any accommodations for a student? Committee believes something should be done due to COVID-19.
- **Proposed:** Some type of mechanism should be made. Perhaps an appeal process. The committee doesn't want a student to be denied graduation due to circumstances like this. The thought behind exceptions: Depends on who is available to teach and what committee members are available at the university. Discussion about degree adjustments or having independent studies. **Fear:** The more safety nets taken the longer it takes to complete a degree.

MS in Construction Management

- No comments.

Chair is sending out via email the committee's thoughts.

Members applauded Dr. Finzer's work on the Teach Out Plans. Committee is very thankful for her efforts to help graduate students.

Meeting adjourned at **5:15 p.m.**