

UA Little Rock Graduate Council
March 10, 2021, 3:00 pm
Zoom Virtual Meeting

Minutes

Members Present:

Chelsea Bradley, Roger Dorsey, Nancy Hamilton, Heidi Harris, Jennifer Holtz, Kamran Iqbal, Sung-Kwan Kim, Robert Lytle, David Manry, John Nichols, Donna Rose, Laura Ruhl-Whittle, Natalie Snow, Jerry Stevenson, Carolyn Turturro

Members absent:

Tracy Cook, Mariya Khodakovskaya, Lynne Larsen

Others present:

Paula Baker, Brian Berry, Ross Bradley, Nicole Godfrey, Karen Kuralt, Tugrul Polat, Dana Steele

Meeting called to order at 3:01 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Old Business

- Approved minutes from February 24, 2021 meeting.

New Business

- **Report of the Curriculum Committee**

21-1021	M.S. in Electrical and Computer Engineering APPROVED	Other
21-1022	GradCert in Estimating Management APPROVED	Deactivate due to classes no longer being offered because the M.A. in Construction Management was eliminated
21-1032	M.S. Mechanical Engineering	Other

APPROVED

21-1033	M.S. Mechanical Engineering APPROVED	Other
21-1034	M.A. Counseling APPROVED	Add to Online Campus
21-1035	M.S. Computer Science APPROVED	Change in deficiency coursework

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

Ambar RanguMagar APPROVED	Doctorate	Philander Smith College	DCSTEM
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Dean's Report -

- Enrollment is still strong.
- Still looking forward to class enrollment numbers for the graduate school.
- Undergraduate enrollment numbers are lower.
- Enrollment management specialist - Nicole Godfrey.
 - Focusing on learning about programs and processes to ease students into enrollment - converting recruits to students.
- Graduation ceremony - in person graduation ceremony for graduate students. Will be broken up into smaller groups for safety/protection. No guests are allowed, but the ceremony will be live streamed.
- Undergraduate ceremony will be much sooner because of the larger group of students.

Dr. Kuralt -

- Continuing recruiting events virtually with local colleges.
- Philander Smith college event - presenting graduate programs to sophomores in the honors college.

Dr. Berry -

- Active presence on social media to share more information.
- Like the Facebook page!
- Student ambassadors - to help incoming students and ease the transition between admission and enrollment.

Open Forum -

Tugrul Polat - Director of the Office of International Students

- International student process
 - Admissions at Graduate school - acknowledging if the student is currently in the US or outside of the US. Immigration laws change constantly.

- **For students in the US:**
 - The office sends the student a form to locate where the student currently resides.
 - The student fills out an information form by their school and sends it back to the office. There, it is decided whether or not the student is in “good Immigration” status or terminated.
 - Whether or not they have been approved for an internship, post completion training, etc.
 - The process helps to access where the student is, immigration wise, in order to guide the student to the right path.
 - After everything is checked, the student asks for their immigration record to be sent to UALR > immigration document is made through DHS > mandatory orientation process > rules and regulations > advising.

- **For students outside of the US:**
 - Students still fill out the immigration verification form.
 - Collect passport and financial documents.
 - Visa process.
 - F2 & J2 - graduate students' dependents.
 - Are only permitted to students part time.
 - Aren't able to get graduate assistantships.
 - Students from outside of the US do not have a social security number, therefore they go through several processes to obtain it > take it to HR to get payroll started for GA positions.
 - Students are only allowed to enter the US 30 days before school starts, according to federal law.
 - Issue: allowing/requiring students to come earlier in order to complete HR and social security processes in order to start employment on time.

***Next meeting is the week after spring break**

3 meetings left - March 31st, April 14th, and April 28th.

Zoom calendar will be adjusted.

Meeting adjourned at **3:59 p.m.**