

GRADUATE COUNCIL

---

**Minutes of Meeting Held October 12, 2021 via Zoom**

*Present:* Dean Holcomb, Associate Dean Kosteas, Professors Porter, Smith, Phillips, Jenkins, Kumar, Sotiropoulos, Matcham, Wendland, Bayachou, Weyman, Wukich, Resnick, and Hamlen Mansour; Diane Kolosionek, Kevin Neal, and Xiaobo He

*Guest:* Kathryn MacCluskie

Dean Holcomb called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**1. Approve Agenda** – The meeting agenda was **approved**

**2. Approve Minutes**

- a. September 15, 2021 – The minutes were **approved**

**3. New Business**

- a. Curriculog proposals

- **Counseling, Clinical Mental Health, M.Ed. – 1050 – Fall 22** – program change
  - Elimination of CNS 523 as an admission requirement and using that credit hour to be added to CNS 505-Appraisal for Counselors
  - **Approved**
- **Counseling, School, M.Ed. – 1050 – Fall 22** – program change
  - Elimination of CNS 523 as an admission requirement and using that credit hour to be added to CNS 505-Appraisal for Counselors
  - **Approved**

- b. Courses in Curriculog for approval (see attachment) – **Approved**

**4. Graduate Council Representation & Standing Committees** --- Available reports

- a. Faculty Senate

- Revising bylaws discussed but requires new approved contract – we do not have yet
- Faculty Senate President, Bob Krebs encouraged faculty to share any issues – positive or negative – to get an idea what’s happening across campus and so he can help advocate for them with the administration
- Emails sent from Vector Solutions about trainings that need to be done
- President Sands spoke about House Bill 327 – which is about the ability to teach divisive concepts which he is working against
- He mentioned the need to build out the campus to support growth – there is going to be a campus master planning committee to assess classroom and facility needs
- 3+3 agreement with Kent State University with Admissions and Standards
- Academic technology discussion – decentralized licenses are being supported by tech fee money but they are essential to certain programs so it seems to be a problem

- Working on computer replacement programs – because of supply chain issues everyone expecting new computers are still waiting
  - The Provost is working to make some resources available for faculty travel, since there is nothing right now
  - There were questions about the new governing structure for the new colleges, which were not really answered
- b. University Admissions & Standards
- Joe Sola will be the GC representative - he is a graduate faculty member and the Chair of that committee
  - 3+3 agreement with Kent State University
  - Student petitions reviewed to ensure the process was followed appropriately – approved the decisions from the Petitions Committee
  - Graduate Council approval extending the GRE/GMAT waiver for the 2022-2023 year – they did not act on that recommendation as they wanted additional information and wanted to talk to the constituencies in their college; it was tabled – they did not vote no or yes to move it on to Faculty Senate Steering
- c. University Curriculum Committee
- Jacqueline Jenkins currently serves on UCC representing Engineering – can she play a dual role and represent Grad Council as well? We will investigate this to see if it can be done.
- d. Graduate Faculty Review Committee
- Deadline is October 19<sup>th</sup> for graduate faculty with status expiring in Fall 2021
  - Review of graduate courses and how they are staffed showed over 300 sections being staffed with faculty who do not have graduate faculty status; Associate Dean Kostas sent each college a list of those faculty who need to apply.
- e. Petitions Committee
- About six related to extension of the 10-year deadline
    - Master's program must be completed within six years; the program can extend that deadline up to ten years but anything beyond that requires a petition to the College of Graduate Studies
    - Related to extending the deadline, of concern is the course work that was completed more than ten years prior to when the degree will be earned and the need to show currency in that course work
    - The Committee is working on some language to provide more guidance to programs on how to submit information related to this
- f. Grade Dispute Committee – no grade disputes
- g. Program Review Committee – nothing to report
- h. University Research Council Committee – will work to determine GC rep
- i. Graduate Student Awards Committee
- Working on revisions to the guidelines document, looking at use of a SharePoint site for submissions (like for faculty status), and different ways to promote the awards program

## 5. Discussion items

### a. Proposed updates to Graduate Grade Dispute policy

#### ORIGINAL: Grade Dispute Procedure

In disputing a course grade, the burden is on the student to demonstrate that an error has occurred or that a non-uniform standard was applied in the assignment of the course grade.

#### PROPOSED: Grade Dispute Procedure

In disputing a course grade, the burden is on the student to demonstrate that one or more of the following applies:

1. An error has occurred in calculation of the grade.
2. The instructor fails to inform students of the basis for calculation of grades.\*
3. A non-uniform standard was applied in the assignment of the course grade and/or the student, through no fault of their own, was not provided with the same opportunity to complete the requirements for the course as the other students.
4. A grading decision was based on a substantial and unreasonable departure from previously articulated standards.

\*As outlined in the syllabus template approved by Faculty Senate, course assignments and weights, and the basis for assigning grades must be clearly stated in the syllabus.

~~\*\* The Grade Dispute process may not be used to challenge the grading of subjective assessments such as research papers, presentations, projects or performances.~~

~~OR~~

~~\*\* Students should not attempt to use the Grade Dispute process to challenge the grading of subjective assessments such as research papers, presentations, projects or performances. The Graduate Grade Dispute Committee will only consider disputes based on the grading of subjective assessments where the student can provide clear evidence that differential credit was given for the same/highly similar work.~~

**Council voted to remove the added section and approved the proposed changes with numbers 1-4 – changes will go into effect with the next catalog**

## 6. Updates/Announcements

### a. Graduate enrollment for fall semester is strong

- 4353 students in the graduate college; up 739 students (headcount)
- Up 27.7% in student credit hours this fall
- New first year students up 719 – largely due to the growth we experienced with international students, particularly in the Masters in Computer Science and Masters in Information Systems programs

## 7. Items for future discussion

- a. Rules related to low grades in previous graduate work for Ph.D. students
  - Student who earned a masters degree (from CSU) and is returning for a Ph.D. – had a low grade or GPA in previous graduate work that is now considered with all their graduate courses; it is worse for them than if another student had the same issues but earned their masters somewhere else.
  - We can explore making a change so when you start a new degree program you begin with a fresh GPA; we can consult with Kevin Neal to find out if it is possible, and then we would need to decide what we want to do
  - If students use their masters credits towards their doctoral credit, how would they be able to start with a new GPA; students who come in with a masters degree in the same discipline would be completing 60 Ph.D. credits not 90 with counting the masters at 30 credits period – that is what is done for people outside (CSU)
- b. Dean Holcomb shared he has been in discussion with other graduate deans from Ohio who do have some kind of grade forgiveness program – he would like to work on that type of program for a limited number of credits or courses
  - Undergraduate students can retake courses and the new grade replaces the old grade in the GPA and the GPA is recalculated
  - Graduate students can retake courses which will improve the GPA but the new grade does not replace the old grade
  - A grade forgiveness policy could provide an avenue for GPA rehabilitation
- c. Shorelight – are other graduate programs being added?
  - We are actively engaging with Shorelight to increase the number of programs for which they will help recruit students
  - Ongoing process – trying to determine programs for Fall 2022 and there will be more programs after that; trying to push Shorelight to diversify in terms of programs and geography where they recruit; trying to encourage Shorelight to recruit more undergraduate students as well

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

**All materials for review before the meeting are available on the University Curriculog web site for access by Council Members. (<https://csuohio.curriculog.com/proposals>)**