



Graduate Council Meeting No. 532

September 14, 2020

Minutes

Council Members Present: Gabriel DePace, Feruz Ganikhano, Nisa Ghonem, Shingo Goto, Rabia Hos, Kathy Hutchinson, Bethany Jenkins, Aaron Ley, Mary MacDonald, Mary Moen, Colleen Mouw, Martha Rojas, Alison Tovar, Fred Vetter, Jin Jian Xiao, Mehmet Gokhan Yalcin

Graduate School Present: Brenton DeBoef, Alycia Mosley Austin, Cara Mitnick, Corinne Kulesh, Jessica Martinez

Additional Guest(s): Amanda Izenstark, Derek Nikitas

I. Call to order

- Time: 2:04 pm by Chair Colleen Mouw

II. Approval of Minutes of Meeting Number 531, April 6, 2020 (please see attachments)

★ *Motion to approve the minutes of meeting No. 531.*

- *Majority approved*
- *2 Council members abstained*

III. Conferral of Graduate Degrees (DeBoef)

★ *Motion to move to recommend to the Council of PostSecondary Education approval of the candidates for the award of graduate degrees whose names will be certified by the Faculty Senate this Thursday, be certified by the Graduate Council and the Graduate School for August 2020.*

- *Unanimously approved*

IV. Announcements

A. Introductions (DeBoef)

1. All council members introduced themselves.

B. Graduate Council Role & Operation (DeBoef & Mouw)

1. Dean DeBoef discussed the Graduate Council's role and expectations from members and council committees. Meetings will continue through Zoom for the rest of the academic year.

C. EGRA Announcement (Mosley Austin)

1. Yearly competition opportunity for students to apply for mini grants up to \$1,000 to use for their research on InfoReady. Typically used for students to travel to conferences, equipment or supplies. This year virtual conferences will be allowed. The scoring range for the rubric was updated.

D. Graduate Program Directors Fall Meeting (*DeBoef*)

1. This year's meeting will be held virtually through Zoom on Thursday, October 1, 2020 from 9 am - 12 pm. The meeting will consist of Graduate School updates, Enrollment Updates, Diversity TAs, Professional Development Updates including the Diversity and Inclusion Badge Program, and a forum for new Program Directors.

E. Professional Development Upcoming Events (*Mitnick*)

1. The Graduate Writing Center is open for virtual appointments. Director Mitnick encourages faculty to include the Graduate Writing Center information within their syllabus. Director Mitnick updated the council on upcoming Professional Development sessions for Graduate Students. All upcoming workshops and sessions are announced through the weekly Graduate School Newsletter.
2. Teaching Assistants (TA) Training had over 300 registrations and consisted of three parts; Modules in Brightspace, Introduction to Brightspace and Technomia presented by the ITS department, and a live 3 hour session. The live session included introductions from the Deans of the Graduate School, GAU, Inclusive Classroom session, Black Lives Matter in the Classroom and Beyond session, Violence Prevention session, and Teaching Online session. TAs expressed a lot of interest in learning more about each session which has led to additional sessions in the Fall for them to attend.

F. Recent appointments to the Graduate Faculty since those listed on April 6, 2020 meeting agenda (*DeBoef*)

Jessica Welch, one-time appointment, Cell and Molecular Biology, College of the Environment and Life Sciences

Aiko Thompson, one-time appointment, Psychology, College of Health Sciences

Simon Engelhart, adjunct appointment, Geosciences, College of the Environment and Life Sciences

Kimberly Arceleo, research professor, College of Nursing

Elizabeth Cottrell, adjunct appointment, Geosciences, College of the Environment and Life Sciences

Susan DeSanto-Madeya, tenure-track appointment, College of Nursing

Gerald Hefferman, adjunct appointment, Electrical, Computer, and Biomedical Engineering, College of Engineering

Elizabeth Hutson, clinical appointment, College of Nursing

Andrew Kemp, adjunct appointment, Geosciences, College of the Environment and Life Sciences

Dahianna Lopez, tenure-track appointment, College of Nursing

Lisa Tewksbury, adjunct appointment, Plant Sciences, College of the Environment and Life Sciences

Yoshitaka Ota, adjunct appointment, Marine Affairs, College of the Environment and Life Sciences

V. New Business

A. Graduate Committee Assignments (*DeBoef*)

- ★ *Motion to approve the Graduate Council Committee Assignments*

- *Unanimously approved*

B. Admissions policies for applicants with criminal records (*Mosley Austin*)

1. Associate Dean Mosley Austin states that current and previous admissions applications have a question asking if an applicant has been convicted of a felony. If the answer is yes, there are additional review processes, but are not indicated in the Graduate School Manual. With a recent situation, it became apparent how necessary it is to have these policies formalized both to protect the institution and protect the interest of the applicants to be treated fairly.
2. Associate Dean Mosley Austin shared a document outlining the procedure that was recently followed this summer with the ad hoc committee reviewing an applicant who had answered yes to this question. The ad hoc committee worked closely with the university legal counsel and all parties involved were pleased with the process.
3. Appeals will be made to the Graduate Student Academic Appeals Board.

- ★ *Motion to approve the Felony Policy and Procedures.*

- *Majority approved*
- *1 Council member abstained*

C. Change in defense set-up process (*DeBoef*)

1. Dean DeBoef explained that due to the pandemic, the Graduate School rapidly modified a lot of policies. Many defenses from March on were held virtually and worked really well. Dean DeBoef is proposing how to update sections within the Graduate School Manual referencing how thesis and dissertation defense can be done.

- ★ *Motion to approve Graduate Manual changes in sections 7.44.5, 7.58.1, 11.23, 11.24, 11.25 and 11.28 regarding thesis and dissertation defense procedures.*
 - *Unanimously approved*

VI. Graduate Curriculum & New Programs (*DeBoef*)

VII. Old Business

A. Embargo (Starting on page 12) (*Amanda Izenstark & Derek Nikitas*)

1. Professor Amanda Izenstark presented the following:
 - a) Background: The majority of the current language regarding embargos on theses and dissertations is overall satisfactory, however it did not allow for the authors of creative dissertations and theses to embargo their content in a way that would facilitate their future use of their creative work. As a result, lengthy embargos – some in excess of the terms of copyright – had been granted. Derek Nikitas (English, past Graduate Council Representative), Julia Lovett (University Libraries, Digital Initiatives Librarian), and Amanda Izenstark (University Libraries, current Graduate Council representative) met in April 2020 to craft language that would allow this use.
 - b) Proposed Language: English program graduate students completing a creative dissertation or thesis should submit a critical introduction to ProQuest instead of the full thesis or dissertation. A full printed version of the thesis or dissertation should be provided to the University Libraries for archival purposes.
 - c) Library Rights statements would need to be updated once policy is approved.
- ★ *Motion to approve the changes to the embargo policy to the linked sources; Library Right Statement and URI IR Agreement.*
 - *Majority approved*
 - *3 council members abstained*

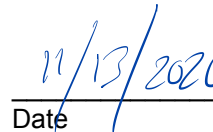
VIII. Adjournment

- Time: 3:59 pm by Chair Colleen Mouw

Minutes approved by the Graduate Council on October 5, 2020



Brenton DeBoef, Interim Dean of the Graduate School



Date