

## GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

DECEMBER 14, 2023

1:00 PM

110 GRINTER HALL

Teleconference (Via Zoom)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Nicole Stedman (Chair), Dr. J.C. Bunch, Dr. James Essegbey, Dr. Hitomi Greenslet, Dr. Kristin Larsen, Dr. Michael Martinez, Dr. Corene Matyas, Dr. Connie Mulligan, Dr. K. Ramesh Reddy, Dr. Aner Sela, Dr. Marta Wayne, Kevin Senior (GSC rep), and Jasleen Kaur (GSC alternate)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Linda Bloom and Dr. Joni Williams Splett

GUESTS PRESENT: Joe Aufmuth (College of Agricultural and Life Sciences), Dr. Casey Bullock (University Registrar), Dr. Larisa Cavallari (College of Pharmacy), Diana Hull (Office of the Registrar), Dr. Thomas Knight (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences), Dr. Evan Kropp (College of Journalism and Communications), Dr. Maria Leite (Academic Affairs), Dr. Johnathan Orsini (Office of the Provost/Teaching and Technology), Dr. Tobin Shorey (Undergraduate Curriculum Committee), Ashley Tidwell (Office of Admissions), Dr. Eric Triplett (College of Agricultural and Life Sciences), and Dr. Nancy Waldron (College of Education)

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Tom Kelleher, Gann Enholm, Megan Lewis, Hannah Potter, Frankie Tai (Recording), Dr. Judy Traveis, Patty Van Wert, and Stacy Wallace

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m.

Dr. Stedman welcomed everyone to this month's meeting of the Graduate Council and gave a brief summary of the pending proposals to be presented to the Council. (Prior to calling the meeting to order, Dr. Stedman informed everyone that today's Zoom meeting was being recorded.)

### I. ACTION ITEMS:

1. Minutes from the November 16, 2023, Graduate Council Meeting. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

### CERTIFICATE:

2. The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences seeks to close the graduate certificate in Geographic Information Systems (#19018). Joe Aufmuth was present (via Zoom) for discussion. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously, with a proposed effective date of earliest available.

### CONCENTRATIONS:

3. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences seeks to create a graduate concentration in Econometric and Data Analysis for the Master of Arts (M.A.) (#18890). Dr. Thomas Knight was present for discussion. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously, with a proposed effective date of earliest available.

4. The College of Education seeks to participate in the existing interdisciplinary concentration in Clinical and Translational Science for the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a major in Special Education (#18927). Dr. Nancy Waldron was present (via Zoom) for discussion. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously, with a proposed effective date of earliest available.
5. The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences seeks to create an online graduate concentration in Microbial and Cellular Data Science for the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (#18948). Dr. Eric Triplett was present (via Zoom) for discussion. Questions were raised regarding the credit amount, and it was suggested that the documents highlight the concentration portion of the curriculum. A motion to table was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

#### **DEPARTMENT:**

6. The College of Pharmacy seeks to create the Department of Pharmacy Education and Practice (#18949). Dr. Larisa Cavallari was present (via Zoom) for discussion. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously, with a proposed effective date of earliest available.

#### **POLICY:**

7. Special members for supervisory committees.  
Dr. Kelleher shared documents with the group outlining a process and policy changes that allow for special appointments to be made internally by units without formal graduate school tracking. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.
8. Graduate Curriculum Committee composition and appointment process.  
Dr. Kelleher shared documents with the group outlining a proposed process for appointment Graduate Curriculum Committee members. It was suggested that a statement be added to note that the Dean can fill temporary vacancies. The revised language reads, “Graduate Curriculum Committee faculty members serve three-year terms, staggered so that two members’ terms end at the end of each academic year. New members are nominated by the Graduate Council and appointed by the Dean of the Graduate School. A member who serves one three-year term may be re-appointed by the Dean of the Graduate School to a second term. Any temporary vacancies may be filled by the Dean of the Graduate School with consent of the council.” A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.
9. Master’s degree acknowledgement (MDA)  
Dr. Kelleher shared the updated documents with the group outlining the proposed process and policy for a master’s degree acknowledgement (MDA). Specifically, approved catalog language states, “Course requirements for doctoral degrees vary from field to field and from student to student. In all fields, the Ph.D. degree requires at least 90 credits beyond the bachelor’s degree or a minimum of 60 credits beyond an accredited and awarded master’s degree...” The new policy proposes to acknowledge the content, level, relevancy, and contribution of a student’s prior earned master’s degree earned at a non-UF institution or another field of study within UF to the specific student’s doctoral program of study at the University of Florida. Academic unit program faculty must complete a holistic review of the individual’s official records and transcripts to specifically evaluate the previously awarded master’s degree. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

## **II. INFORMATION ITEM / ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS:**

10. Graduate Curriculum Committee – November Minutes and December Agenda.
11. Graduate Programs – Distance or Self-Supporting – (No new items)

Dr. Jonathan Orsini shared that the Office of Distance Learning's review group has begun meeting and they should have some items to present in January.

12. Graduate Student Success Center

- Grad Start for new spring admits canvas course opened on December 4 and the live orientation session will be January 4th
- Late hires for spring semester
- January is Mentoring Month
- Graduate Student Appreciation Week is April 1-5 with Graduate Research Day on April 2

Dr. Travis was present to share updates for the Graduate Student Success Center.

**III. DISCUSSION ITEM:**

13. Graduate Certificates and master's Admissions. Dr. Evan Kropp was present for discussion. Discussed options for students who don't meet the minimum threshold for acceptance into a master's program but are proving success in certificate programs.

14. SB 846 – General discussion about how this legislation affects international graduate student funding and admissions at the university.

The meeting adjourned at 2:49 p.m.