

## **GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES**

**APRIL 17, 2025**

**1:00 PM**

### **110 GRINTER HALL & Teleconference (Via Zoom)**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dr. Linda Bloom, Dr. Hitomi Greenslet, Dr. James Jawitz, Dr. Michael Martinez, Dr. Linjuan Rita Men, Dr. Connie Mulligan, Dr. Pilar Useche, Dr. Marta Wayne, Dr. Weizhou Zhang, Kevin Senior (GSC rep), and Fatima Akinola (GSC alternate)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dr. Nicole Stedman (Chair), Dr. J.C. Bunch, Dr. Abdoulaye Kane, and Dr. Joni Williams Splett

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Dr. Megan Forbes (English Language Institute), Dr. Cheryl Gater (Associate Provost and Director), Dr. George Hack (College of Public Health and Health Professions), Dr. Blain Harrison (College of Health and Human Performance), Diana Hull (Office of the Registrar), Dr. Evan Kropp (College of Journalism and Communications), Dr. Richard Lutz (Warrington College of Business), Ken McCague (Office of Admissions), (Melissa Macarages (Office of the Registrar), Chris Newsom (Office of the Provost/Teaching and Technology), Ana Portocarrero (Warrington College of Business), Dr. Tobin Shorey (Undergraduate Curriculum Committee), Dr. Catia Silva (Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering), Dr. Leandro Dias Teixeira (College of Agricultural and Life Sciences), Lissette Toletino (Office of Institutional Assessment), and Dr. Julia Varnes (College of Public Health and Health Professions)

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

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m. by Dr. Kelleher, who welcomed everyone and noted that Dean Stedman was traveling abroad. (Zoom notified all participants that the meeting was being recorded.)

### **I. ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Minutes from the March 27, 2025, Graduate Council Meeting. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

### **CERTIFICATES:**

2. The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences seeks to create a graduate certificate in Clinical Laboratory Microbiologist (#20685). Dr. Leandro Dias Teixeira was present (via Zoom) for the discussion. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously, with a proposed effective date of earliest available.
3. The College of Journalism and Communications seeks to create a graduate certificate in Sports Media and Communication (#20814). Dr. Evan Kropp was present (via Zoom) for the discussion. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously, with a proposed effective date of spring 2026.

### **CONCENTRATION:**

4. The College of Health and Human Performance seeks to modify the curriculum for the Strength and Conditioning Practitioner concentration (#21048). Dr. Blain Harrison was present (via Zoom) for

the discussion. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously, with a proposed effective date of fall 2025.

## **MAJORS:**

5. The Warrington College of Business seeks to create a new major in Marketing and a concentration in Marketing Analytics for the Master of Science (M.S.) (#18789). Ana Portocarrero was present for the discussion. A friendly amendment to the proposal language to clarify that students currently in the existing M.S. in Business Administration with with a concentration in marketing will have the option to transfer to the new M.S. with a major in Marketing was accepted. Portocarrero agreed to make that update before action for the proposal was taken in the approval system. A motion to approve the proposal as amended was made, seconded, and passed unanimously, with a proposed effective date of earliest available.
6. The Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering seeks to modify the curriculum for the major in Applied Data Science (#19578). Dr. Catia Silva was present (via Zoom) for the discussion. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously, with a proposed effective date of earliest available.

## **COMBINATION DEGREE**

7. The College of Public Health and Health Professions seeks to modify the admission requirements for the combination degree program between any bachelor's degree and the Master of Public Health (M.P.H.)(#21040). Dr. George Hack and Dr. Julia Varnes were present for the discussion. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously, with a proposed effective date of fall 2025.

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

8. Graduate Curriculum Committee – March Minutes and April Agenda
9. Update on the Graduate Council election 2025-2028  
The two candidates receiving the most votes were Dr. Jorg Bungert and Dr. James Jawitz, who will be appointed to represent graduate faculty. The election results for other graduate faculty nominees on the ballot will be forwarded to the Provost, who will appoint two additional members.
10. Graduate Programs – Distance or Self-Supporting (No new items)  
Chris Newsome was present (via Zoom) to confirm.
11. Graduate Student Success Center  
Dr. Judy Traveis shared the news of a successful Graduate Student Appreciation Week. She reminded everyone about deadlines for tuition waivers and Chris Walker, our resource for GradCare.

## **II. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

12. Combination Degrees  
Assistant Provost Toby Shorey led a presentation that Hannah Potter shared on the screen (and later emailed to everyone). At the graduate level, we typically approve 4+1 combination degrees. Dr. Shorey and the team are working on a concrete policy for combination degrees. Assistant University Registrar Melissa Macarages presented forms that the OUR is using for degree audit plans. Potter then presented the transfer of credit form, which should reflect a pre-planned academic program developed during the undergraduate career.

13. Update on Course Description Taskforce

Dr. Shorey shared a document with recommendations from the task force. This also included some samples of brief descriptions in a unified style. He will continue to share the progress of this project as he works with other relevant committees.

14. IELTS Score Minimums

Dr. Megan Forbes, Director of the UF English Learning Institute, and Chelsea Rojas shared handouts regarding English language proficiency testing requirements for admission to UF graduate programs. Handouts included information on current UF requirements, test interpretations, and requirements from peer institutions for comparison. UF's current minimum of 6.0 on the IELTS is lower than peers and not equivalent to an 80 on the TOEFL, which is the current TOEFL minimum for UF graduate admissions. Council members were supportive of revisiting this discussion as an action item at the next meeting.

15. International Student travel

Dr. Marta Wayne, Dean of UFIC, discussed concerns surrounding the ability of graduate students to re-enter the United States after leaving. Students should contact their UFIC advisors for individualized advice per situation. Caution should be used when considering travel and weighing personal risk.

The meeting adjourned at 2:51 p.m.