University Graduate Council Agenda  
MEETING via ZOOM  
April 10, 2020 12:00 PM EST

Council Members  
Dr. Kevin Burgess (COLS), Chair  
Dr. John Finley (TCOB)  
Dr. Tammy Condrey (COEHP)  
Dr. Kimberly Gill (COLS)  
Dr. Shamim Khan (TCOB), Secretary  
Dr. Ryan Lynch (COLS)  
Dr. Saoussan Maarouf (COEHP)  
Dr. Lisa Oberlander (COA)  
Dr. Brian Tyo (COEHP)

Ex Officio Members  
Dr. Margie Yates (COEHP), Interim Associate Provost  
Dr. Tim Howard, SACSCOC Liaison  
Ms. Kristin Williams-Griffin, Graduate Admissions & Recruitment

Item 1: Welcome, Lunch, and Approval of Minutes  
Dr. Burgess called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm. A motion was passed to approve the March meeting minutes.

Item 2: Report from Dr. Yates, Interim Associate Provost for Graduate Education  
Dr. Yates mentioned the difficulty with accessing the graduate faculty workflow from off-campus due to technical issues. She proposed storing the graduate faculty application material on the shared Graduate Council Google Team drive that would allow access only to the Council members. After some discussion, it was decided that Dr. Yates would upload any material to the shared drive if it cannot be uploaded to the Banner workflow because of technical reasons.
Dr. Yates reported that the Graduate School was in close contact with the students. The Network and Knowledge meetings have been moved to online. A monthly mingle was to be held the following Thursday with the graduate students to announce a video contest, where students would talk about what they think is great about their programs and why they are excited to be in these programs. The videos are to be used to help with recruiting efforts. Some prizes like books scholarships will also be used to attract students. Jordan Bracewell, the new graduate recruiter, is helping with the recruitment efforts by setting up recruiting faires with program coordinators and faculty. This is a good time to reach out to our seniors, who are not sure what they want after graduation, by showing them a clear plan.
The newsletter is coming out bi-weekly. Dr. Yates thanked all faculty and staff for their Reading Nook suggestions for the newsletter. Besides phone calls and emails, we are trying to do our due diligence and keep a sense of community amongst our graduate students. She also thanked faculty for all the online work done by them; it is getting really good feedback from students.

Item 3: Old Business  
Approval of Graduate Faculty – The Council reviewed six graduate faculty membership applications; four were approved for full membership, one for associate and one for provisional membership.

Item 4: New Business  
- Proposal for MA in Communications  
  
Drs. Dana Gibson and Sarah Smith-Frigerio presented the MA in Communications prospectus and answered questions from council members. Dr. Burgess asked about the ability of the Department of Communications to offer all the proposed graduate courses. Dr. Gibson responded by saying that two additional faculty positions are being sought, and also, collaboration with Georgia Film Academy in teaching some of the courses as well as adjuncts should help. Dr. Lynch expressed his doubts about the ability to offer three tracks of the proposed program with the
help of the two new faculty and asked if the tracks would be prioritized. Dr. Tyo suggested that with 5000G courses both undergraduate and graduate students could be served and asked how many 6000 level courses are required for a graduate program. Dr. Howard responded by saying that USG just requires 30 hours of graduate coursework and SACS does not quantify. So in theory, a program could have 30 hours of 5000G courses. Dr. Yates added that one may not want to offer such a program keeping in mind students perception of such a program. She also raised the issue of people outside of the area being able to distinguish the three proposed tracks. Dr. Smith-Frigerio described the distinctiveness of the tracks and said that the track names are popular within the discipline and students should be able to pick them up. She also stated that the program would be hybrid with face-to-face and online courses. Ms. Williams pointed out that International students are allowed to take only one online course per semester. Dr. Khan mentioned that hybrid sections with once-a-week face-to-face meetings is an approach that has been followed in the School of Computer Science to deal with this issue. Dr. Yates stressed the importance of considering the needs of mid-career professionals and job changers in thinking about admission requirements and scheduling. Dr. Howard expressed the opinion that with 50% shared content, the three proposed tracks looked more like three different programs. Concern was also expressed about the seven learning outcomes being too many and that they are the same for all three tracks. The Council thanked Dr. Gibson and Smith-Frigerio for their presentation of their Master’s in Communication proposal. Recommendations from the council on the proposal will be communicated to them. The recommendations will be – to revise learning outcomes with two to three common outcomes and one or two different outcomes for the tracks, to consider the viability of the three tracks given available faculty resources, to consider the use of 5000 level courses, to decrease the number of hours in area 2 to provide more flexibility in area 3. A motion was passed to forward the above recommendations to the Communications Department.

Dr. Howard reminded the Graduate Council members about the SACS-related standards that plays an important role in what the Council is doing. The first one is Standard 9.1, being in compliance with which means our educational programs (a) embody a coherence course of study, (b) are compatible with the stated mission and goals of the institution, and (c) are based on fields of study appropriate to higher education. The other standard is 9.6, which has to do with rigor and curriculum and states that compliance means post-baccalaureate professional degree program and graduate degree programs are progressively more advanced in academic content than undergraduate programs, and are structured to (a) include knowledge of the literature of the discipline and (b) to ensure engagement in research and/or appropriate professional practice and training. Dr. Howard mentioned that comments from the Council on compliance with these standards would be valued.

- Proposal to remove the GRE from admission requirements for the Clinical Mental Health Master’s Programs

Council approved removing the GRE requirement but decided to seek clarification on the admission status of the students. The clarification received will be put on the shared Google drive and a vote on it will be taken by email.

- Proposal to remove the GRE from admission requirements for the M.Ed. in Higher Education

Council approved removing the GRE requirement.

Rest of the items in the agenda were tabled for the next meeting. The meeting adjourned at 2:07 pm.