University Graduate Council Minutes
Tucker Hall
March 6, 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
Ms. Kristin Williams-Griffin, Graduate Admissions & Recruitment

Item 1: Welcome, Lunch, and Approval of Minutes
Dr. Burgess called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm. A motion was passed to approve the February meeting minutes with additional clarification from Dr. Yates regarding grading by graduates to be added to the minutes. A motion was also passed to approve the recording of the Council minutes only to help with keeping minutes and not for posting or sharing.

Item 2: Report from Dr. Yates, Interim Associate Provost for Graduate Education
Tabled – Dr. Yates not able to attend.

Item 3: Old Business
Approval of Graduate Faculty – The Council reviewed two graduate faculty membership applications; one was approved for full membership and the other one was denied due to insufficient publications.

Review of By-Laws – Drs. Ryan Lynch and Brian Tyo, on behalf of the by-law task group, presented a review of the edits to the by-laws to date. Five issues the task group had been considering were discussed. These were – 1) Should the Graduate Council only serve as an advisory body for the Associate Vice Provost for Graduate Education/the Director of the Graduate School or should it also have a responsibility to report to the Faculty Senate as a faculty unit? 2) Who should chair this body? 3) Should ex-officio members be a part of the committee? 4) How should members of the committee be chosen? Be appointed by the dean or elected by the graduate faculty in their college? 5) How should representation on the council work? Based only on the number of graduate students in the colleges? Should all graduate faculty be in it? The question was raised as to whether the Graduate Council has the purview to change any of these? Opinion was expressed that the Graduate Council exists only to assist the Graduate Director in their decision making process. It was decided that a vote be taken on these issues as action items at the next meeting. Dr. Burgess stated that in future, all agenda items will be designated as information, advisory or action items.

Exclusion Policy Revision at the Undergraduate level – Dr. Pat McHenry presented the revised exclusion policy for undergraduate students, which originated from the Academic Standards committee, then approved by the RPG committee and the Academic Council, and also been presented to and endorsed by the Faculty Senate. It essentially gets rid of academic exclusion and reframes the probationary status – calling it university support status. Students whose GPA falls below 2.0 will be required to enter the university support program, where they’ll get services that match their needs to help them regain their academic status. If they refuse to enter the program, they will not be able to register for courses. Students under this program will be tracked to make sure they receive the support they need. This policy does not impact the graduate students. Dr. McHenry also described the change proposed in the undergraduate academic forgiveness policy to allow undergraduates to keep the better grade if they repeat a course. There is currently no forgiveness policy for graduate students. It was decided to include this as an agenda item for the next meeting of the Council.

Graduate Certificate Policy (Number of “C’s” and GPA) – Dr. Shamim Khan brought up the issue of no current guidelines concerning good academic standing for graduate certificate students unlike master’s students, who are required
to maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA and have no more than 2 ‘C’ grades to be able to graduate. Application of this policy to graduate certificate programs may prevent a student from obtaining a graduate certificate, the courses for which are a subset of those taken for a master’s program. The Council advised that individual programs should come up with their own policies on this and bring it to the Graduate Council for endorsement.

**Announcements** – Dr. Burgess announced that Dr. Yates will share a Google folder with all relevant documents when they become available. The council members will review the nominations for the awards and vote in April.

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm.