

Graduate Council

Wednesday, August 25, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Graduate Council Members Present:

Heather Anderson, Emily Buck, Colette Dollarhide, Danielle Fosler-Lussier, Caroline Fitzpatrick, Jim Fuchs, Thomas Kerler, Steve Lavender, Mona Makhija, Mark Moritz, Sharon Schweikhart, Carolyn Sommerich, Fengyuan Yang

Office of Research: Jan Weisenberger

Graduate School Staff: Alicia Bertone, Anika Anthony, Karin Jordan, Matt Page, Joan Lieb, Susan Reeser (recorder)

A. Dean Alicia Bertone began the meeting by welcoming the new and continuing Graduate Council members and asked members to introduce themselves to the group. Dean Bertone thanked Council for their willingness to serve on this advisory group to the Graduate School.

B. Election of Chair

Dean Bertone reported that each year an experienced Council member is elected to serve as the Chair of the Graduate Council. Professor Fengyuan Yang, a third-year member on Council was nominated for the position for 2021-2022. A call for additional nominations from others was made, but no other nominees were brought forward at that time. Dean Bertone asked again if any other members wished to serve in this capacity. After hearing no other nominations, members voted unanimously for Professor Yang to serve as chair. As chair, Professor Yang will represent Graduate Council on the Senate's Faculty Cabinet. Professor Yang will contact Council members prior to each meeting to see if they may have any agenda items for the next meeting.

C. Curriculum Committee Reports and Actions

Associate Dean Anthony explained the responsibilities of the Curriculum Committee and the rigorous review process it undertakes to vet proposals for new program, curricular changes, program name changes, or to create new master's and PhD degrees, interdisciplinary specializations, and graduate certificate programs. Faculty Rules govern the curricular review process and depending on the proposal, the review pathway includes the college, Curriculum Committee/Graduate Council, and Academic Affairs/Council on Academic Affairs (CAA). Some proposals for new degrees need further review by the University Senate, Board of Trustees, and the Ohio Department of Higher Education Chancellor's Council on Graduate Studies (CCGS) before final approval.

The Graduate School/Graduate Council and Academic Affairs (GS/CAA) committee is overseen by Associate Dean Anika Anthony and consists of six faculty members and two graduate students. Three faculty are appointed by the Graduate School in coordination with the Graduate Council, and three faculty will be appointed by the Office of Academic Affairs in coordination with the Council on Academic Affairs. Two students will be appointed by the Council of Graduate Students (CGS). Dean Anthony asked for volunteers to serve on the committee. Professors Heather Anderson and CGS representative Ann Thomas has volunteered to serve on the GS/CAA sub-committee. Additional members are still needed.

D. Curriculum Committee Reports – Associate Dean Anika Anthony

1. **Dean Anthony explained the proposal from the College of Public Health to revise the existing *Master of Science specialization in Biomedical Informatics*** due to recent course revisions. The total minimum required credit hours for the specialization will remain at 48 credit hours. Proposed program changes were reviewed. The College of Public Health has affirmed that the program will be offered in-person and that the College will actively monitor the student experience to ensure that students complete less than 50% of the program online. For this reason, no MOU with the Office of Distance of Education and E-Learning is required at this time. The College of Public Health will provide an update report to the Council on Academic Affairs (CAA) regarding the delivery mode experience of its students in approximately two years following CAA approval of this proposal. The proposal has been approved by the College of Public Health, and the GS/CAA subcommittee has recommended it for approval.
 - Dean Bertone called for a vote and the proposal was unanimously approved by Graduate Council. It will be forwarded to the Council on Academic Affairs for further processing.

2. **Dean Anthony reviewed the College of Public Health proposal to revise the existing dual degree program for the *Master of Public Health (MPH) with specialization in Health Behavior and Health Promotion* and the *Master of Social Work*** because of recent MPH curriculum changes that have already been approved by the Council on Academic Affairs (CAA). The total minimum required credit hours for the dual degree program will remain at 87 credit hours. Proposed program changes were reviewed. The College of Public Health has affirmed that the intent is to offer the program as an in-person program and that the College will actively monitor the student experience to ensure that students complete less than 50% of the program online. No MOU with the Office of Distance of Education and E-Learning is required at this time. The College of Public Health will provide an update report to CAA regarding the delivery mode experience of its students in approximately two years following CAA approval of this proposal. The proposal has been approved by the College of Public Health, and the GS/CAA subcommittee has recommended it for approval.
 - Dean Bertone called for a vote and the proposal was unanimously approved by Graduate Council. It will be forwarded to the Council on Academic Affairs for further processing.

3. Dean Anthony explained that the proposal from the College of Nursing to create a new Doctoral of Nursing Education (DNE) program was first proposed at the February 8, 2021, Graduate Council meeting. At that time, Council members questioned why the program was only requiring 42 credit hours for the degree and not the required 50 credit hours post master's degree for a Professional Doctorate. Council agreed to not vote on the proposal until additional information from the program was provided. They requested that the College of Nursing provide additional justification for the exemption from the Graduate School policy that requires a minimum of 80 total credit hours after the baccalaureate degree and a minimum of 50 credit hours post-master's degree, for a Professional Doctorate.

The College of Nursing has revised the proposal and Dean Anthony reviewed the changes made to increasing the number of credit hours to the requisite 50 post master's hours. Council members complimented the College of Nursing on its effort to improve the proposal.

➤ Dean Bertone called for a vote and the proposal was unanimously approved by Graduate Council. It will be forwarded to the Council on Academic Affairs for further processing

D. Business –Vice Provost and Dean Alicia Bertone

1. Introduced Kimerly Powell, Clinical Professor of Biomedical Informatics in the College of Medicine and assistant professor in the Department of Radiology. Dr. Powell has been appointed as a Faculty Fellow for Strategic Trainee Proposal Development (STPD) in the Graduate School and will provide administrative and overall leadership to help programs develop and submit competitive grants and training grant proposals. Dr. Powell also plans to develop outlines and customized templates to help expedite the submission process.
2. Introduced Zakee Sabree, Associate Professor in the Department of Evolution, Ecology & Organismal Biology. Dr. Sabree has been appointed as the faculty director for Postdoctoral Affairs and will provide leadership to the postdoctoral scholar community across the university. He will also strengthen training and education opportunities for postdoc.
3. The Graduate School has been working to develop a Matching Tuition and Fee Award (MTFA) nomination and tracking system. The MTFA program provides fee authorizations for graduate students who receive a competitive stipend from a funding agency that does not provide funds to cover tuition and fees. The newly improved system will GO Live in the next couple of weeks and will allow easier submission of funding requests and the ability to track those requests and receive and process notifications. The new system includes a pre-approval portal that will enable the reviewers to complete reviews in a timely manner. Dean Bertone reviewed the processes and importance of the MTFA program and asked Council to send her any comments regarding the guidelines.
4. The Graduate School has formed a Postdoctoral Excellence Task Force that will include Postdoctoral trainees, faculty, and administrative leadership to review the current model of the Postdoctoral Affairs office compared to our peers and develop guidance on how the Postdoctoral Affairs office can best deliver services and support to the postdoctoral community in the future. The Task Force has its first meeting on August 30.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.