

Minutes of the Graduate Council

Date of Meeting: March 17, 2021

The March 17, 2021 meeting of the Graduate Council was called to order at 1:18 p.m. via Zoom by Dr. Gretchen Busl, Chair of the Graduate Council.

Attendance:

- **Members:** Erika Armstrong, Kevin Becker, Sneha Bharadwaj, Lee Brown, Gretchen Busl, Paula Clutter, Rita DelloStritto, Brian Fehler, Jordan Fuchs, Hui-Ting Goh, Holly Hansen-Thomas, Ruth Johnson, Rebecca Keele, Randa Keeley, Dundee Lackey, Hyuk-Jin Lee, Barbara McAlister, Mindy Menn, Sandra Murdock, Joel Muro, Mindy Patterson, Maria Barua (for Pushkala Raman), Suzanne Sellers, Theresa Smith, Sharla Snider, Laura Trujillo-Jenks, Wesley Tucker, Ann Wheeler, Alisa Woods, Philip Yang, Margaret Young.
- **Guests:** Jenna Lee, Lynda Murphy, Noralyn Pickens, Gray Scott, Terry Senne, Maria Peterson-Ahmad, Sara Ishii, Pam Youngblood, Lauren DiMaio, Marie-Anne Demuynck, Colby Parsons, Patricia Watson.

MINUTES APPROVED:

- The meeting minutes for February 24, 2021 were approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Report from Dr. Holly Hansen-Thomas:

Dr. Hansen-Thomas made the following announcements/ reminders:

- Federation of North Texas Universities Symposium: The event is scheduled for April 9, 2021. Thank you to those who agreed to be judges. The event will take place virtually this year and is being considered as an event that will be held virtually going forward. We will be considering all aspects to ensure that the students have a rich experience. We are also having conference proceedings just like Visual Arts and ORSP have put together for their symposiums, and we will be putting together a book so that the students participating will get a publication out of it. Dr. Andrea Graham, Commerce's Associate Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences, will be the guest speaker and her talk is entitled "The Post Pandemic Shift."
- TWU's Creative Arts and Research Symposium is being held April 13-14. The committee and Tracy Lindsay have been working very hard. So far, we have 223 abstracts and 8 session times.
- Dr. Jörg Waltje was successful in obtaining a grant that allows everyone to participate in a new faculty diversity organization called the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity (NCFDD). Please participate; there is no sign up fee, and there will be some useful resources.
- New Information: In conversing with Kyle Voyles, the university has a subscription to a platform called Nearpeer. Right now, it is used mostly for freshman and transfer students, but there is conversation about getting our graduate students involved with this, as well. Monica Mendez-Grant supported this last year, and we will be testing it with the graduate

students to see if they will be interested in it as a way to interact, a way to share, and as a way to share resources. We will be using our Graduate Student Council representatives to test it out and will report back with an update.

- The CITI training platform has courses you can take online, and there is one about getting started in grant writing which will be available to you in the next couple of days.
- For researchers and those leading someone doing research, Cayuse has been having issues these past few days. Sandy Owens from IRB might have to reach out to you or you can contact her or ORSP if you have any concerns.
- Schweitzer Fellowship: It is a yearlong fellowship, and we have selected two winners whose names I will share as soon as I have approval.
- GRE admissions processing: A message was sent out about the option of not making it a requirement if you feel that your program does not need it. For some departments, it is a preference, and for others, it is a requirement. The option is there to consider.

Report from Dr. Ruth Johnson:

- CRM update: Things are moving right along. Responses are needed to messages sent as soon as possible. The application process for the admissions end of it is almost done, and testing is being done now. I am helping to develop the part for the departments, and it is quite involved. I had to re-ask your departments about whether you want references, recommendation forms, and recommendation letters, or if you don't want any of the above. I became aware of some other options and sent out another message with a 3rd option as a choice. The university will be looking into getting more licenses so that more people in the departments can review the materials in the system. They are also currently looking into the flow of things from the admissions section into the departments and graduate school process of making decisions of admission.
- Graduate Catalog: The catalog is currently being reviewed for changes, revisions, and updates. If you see something that needs correcting, please contact your component leader or your assigned person to do it themselves. The catalog can only be updated once a year. The deadline date is March 26th.
- GA's: We need to start looking at who the GA's are for summer and potentially fall.

SUMMARY REPORTS FROM 2020-21 STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Executive Committee – Dr. Gretchen Busl

- We will need to have a new set of elections for Executive Committee members. We will need to check remaining availability. Elections for nominees were done during the last meeting.
- There is renewed interest in the ad hoc committee about graduate student compensation and a doodle poll will be sent out to those who have expressed interest.

Research Committee – Dr. Sneha Bharadwaj

- Reviews will be completed today for both the Graduate Council Award for Exceptional, Original Scholarship and for the Chancellor's Student Research Scholars. The committee will be forwarding the awardee list in the next couple of days to the Graduate School and to the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs.

Academic Standards Committee – Dr. Ann Wheeler

- We have one more meeting left, so if you have any graduate policies that you would like for us to look at, please email your request.
- We will continue to look at the iTeach proposal. We were asked to look at the credit for prior learning at the graduate level before moving forward. We will be looking at that during our April meeting.
- We hope to look at final exams again. It was on last month’s agenda, and we are supposed to go back and look at it again. We hope to have it ready in April, as well as other policies.

Academic Programs Committee – Dr. Laura Trujillo-Jenks

- No Report

Membership Committee - Dr. Kevin Becker

- Next month is the last time that we will be reviewing applications until October.
- We will continue to look at membership criteria and we are considering potential changes to the criteria at different levels of classification. Please submit any concerns by next week.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Membership Committee, **Dr. Kevin Becker**

- Members voted on and approved by the Graduate Council members.

Name	Component	Recommendation
Kathryn Cantrell	Human Development, Family Studies, and Counseling	Associate
Shann Hwa Hwang	Human Development, Family Studies, and Counseling	Full
Jo-Ann Stankus	Nursing	Full
Cheryl Thaxton	Nursing	Associate

B. Academic Standards Committee, **Dr. Ann Wheeler**

- Addendum to Criteria for Appointment to Graduate Assistantship
Graduate Council members voted on and approved the proposal.
- Writing Requirement/Course Work Option for Master’s Students

- Graduate Council members voted on and approved the proposal.
- Amend the Responsibilities of the Graduate Council
Graduate Council members voted on and approved the proposal.
- Review of Admission Criteria
Graduate Council members voted on and approved the proposal.
- Approval to amend Policy on Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Programs
There was no vote with a hold and send back to the committee for April's meeting.
- Approval to amend Policy on Post-Master's Certificate Programs
There was no vote with a hold and send back to the committee for April's meeting.

C. Academic Programs Committee, **Dr. Laura Trujillo-Jenks**

- Teacher Ed: Approval to revise the Post-Master's Certificate of Advanced Study-Educational Diagnostician
Graduate Council members voted on and approved the proposal.
- Music: Approval to revise the Master of Music (MMT) to include Advanced Clinical Skills and Clinical Administration.
Graduate Council members voted on and approved the proposal.
- Mathematics & Computer Science: Approval to revise the current MS Informatics degree by adding a new track in Cybersecurity
Graduate Council members voted on and approved the proposal.
- Visual Arts: Approval to revise the MFA in Art
Graduate Council members voted on and approved the proposal.
- Visual Arts: Approval to revise the MA in Art - Concentration in Art History
Graduate Council members voted on and approved the proposal.
- Literacy & Learning: Approval for a new degree in M.A. in Multilingual and Multicultural Studies
Graduate Council members voted on and approved the proposal.

ADJOURNMENT: 2:31 p.m.