

## **Minutes of the Graduate Council**

**Date of Meeting: March 20, 2024**

The March 20, 2024, meeting of the Graduate Council was called to order at 1:02 p.m. via Zoom by Dr. Randa Keeley, Chair of the Graduate Council.

### **Members in Attendance:**

Amanda Arnold, Dayna Averitt, Ale Babino, Lee Brown, Sandra Cesario, Rigoberto Delgado, Helen Everts, Alyssa Fiss, Jordan Fuchs, Faheemah Hannah, Gretchen Hoffman, Ruth Johnson, Carolyn Kapinus, Randa Keeley, Mikyoung Lee, June Levitt, Zhen Li, Rey Manriquez, Rebecca Lucero-Jones, Mindy Menn, Kimberly Mory, Aaron Norton, Mindy Patterson, Catalina Pislariu, Alondra Vergara, Suzanne Sellers, and Philip Yang.

**Substitutes:** Shah Tushar for Derek Crews, Bridgette Vittrup for Jonathan Olsen, Juan Araujo for Annette Torres-Elias, Maria Barua for Mark Tengesdal

### **MINUTES APPROVED**

- The meeting minutes for February 21, 2024, were approved.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORT BY DR. CAROLYN KAPINUS, DEAN OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL**

I hope everyone had a good spring break and was able to get some rest before we head into the final stretch of the semester.

#### **Graduate Student Appreciation Week**

The first week of April is historically Graduate Student Appreciation Week. We have a number of fun events planned, and some of our partners like Career Connections are doing their own graduate-student-focused events. We will have an in-person event on every campus along with virtual options. We are also going to solicit messages of appreciation, advice, or support from faculty and staff for our students to compile and send out during the week. I'll be sending out an email soon about this with a google form to respond.

#### **Application Numbers for Fall**

- Overall completed applications for fall 2024 are up 33% compared to the same for Fall 2023(460 applications)
- Accepted applications are down 3% (10 applications)
- Denied applications are flat

#### **Masters:**

- Completed applications are up 36% (an increase of 278 applications)
- Accepted applications are down 10% (a decrease of 12 applications)

- Denied applications are down 15% (a decrease of 9 applications)
- 776 completed applications are pending decisions. I know some of the delay is that programs need to evaluate the supplemental application materials such as essays, letters of recommendation, and so on.

Doctoral:

- Trends look good for Fall
- Completed applications are up 29% (an increase of 184 applications)
- Accepted applications are up 10% (an increase of 15 applications)
- Denied applications are up 3% (9 applications)
- 380 applications are still pending decisions

### “Creating Community” Zoom Session and Future Sessions

If you missed the Zoom session on “Creating Community in Your Graduate Program” and would like to view the recording, please send Danita Cantu an email, and she will give you access. This session was held the week before spring break, and Dr. Adesola Akinleye, coordinator of the Dance PhD shared examples of how they create community in their low residency PhD program. There were a lot of good ideas shared in this session. If you have ideas for future sessions, please let me know.

World Education Services is one of the most common NACES transcript evaluators and their processing time as stated on the website is 3 days or less:

<https://www.wes.org/evaluations-and-fees/education/graduate-admissions/>

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORT BY DR. RUTH JOHNSON, ASSOCIATE DEAN OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL**

- Target X
  - moving along
  - positive feedback from committee and department approvers
  - Everything can be located in one place including transcripts.
  - Training/Refreshers on how to navigate through the site is available.
  - How to build an application notification report will be offered soon.
- Defense Deadlines
  - Discussion under old business of today’s agenda
  - Jaelyn Kliman (Graduate Reader/Editor) and Caroline Scott (Thesis/Dissertation Formatting Editor) present and available for questions.
- OnBase: There are no issues to report.

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Gretchen Busl – QEP Updates

## **SUMMARY REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES**

- Executive Committee – Chair Dr. Randa Keeley & Vice Chair Dr. Mindy Menn
  - No Report.
- Research Committee – Dr. Randa Keeley on behalf of Dr. Patty Bowyer
  - Student Creative Arts and Research Symposium, Denton campus, and virtually on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, and Wednesday, April 24, 2024.
  - The committee is currently reviewing submissions for the Chancellor’s Student Research Scholars and Graduate Council Award for Exceptional, Original Scholarship. 16 submissions for the Chancellor’s Student Research Scholars and 11 for the Graduate Council Award for Exceptional, Original Scholarship.
  - The Research committee hopes to meet in April to discuss the possibility of additional awards. The plan is to discuss possible ideas such as exceptional dissertation and thesis awards.
- Academic Standards Committee – Dr. Lee Brown
  - No Report.
- Academic Programs Committee – Dr. June Levitt
  - Committee has three proposals to present today.
- Membership Committee – Dr. Alyssa Fiss
  - The next meeting will be the last for faculty applications to be approved until the fall.
  - Returned applications with a re-work request are pending a response from the applicants. I will work with Danita to send notifications since most reworks are due to something small like a missing RCR certificate.
  - Notify your department that our next meeting is the last one until September.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Membership Committee – Dr. Alyssa Fiss
  - Membership Committee recommendations for faculty status listed on page 2 of today’s agenda – **Voted on and approved**
2. Academic Programs Committee – Dr. June Levitt

- A. FAMLYSTUD.Ph.D.\_ Doctor of Philosophy in Human Development & Family Studies – Dr. Brigitte Vittrup present for questions. **Voted on and approved.**
  - B. HISTORY.MA.PROPAPER & HISTORY.MA.THESIS\_ Master of Arts in History – Dr. Christina Bejarano present for questions. **Voted on and approved.**
  - C. POLSCIENCE.MA.PROF, POLSCIENCE.MA.PBLAFR, & POLSCIENCE.MA.THESIS\_ Master of Arts in Political Science – Dr. Christina Bejarano present for questions. **Voted on and approved.**
3. Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair for the 2024-2025 academic year.
- o Voting will take place at the next meeting.
  - o Nominations can be submitted using the Google form link provided in the chat.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- 1. Dissertation Deadlines - Dr. Ruth Johnson
  - o Discussion only, no vote.
- 2. Variable Dissertation Credit – Dr. Aaron Norton
  - o Discussion only, no vote.
- 3. Policies for Multi-Article Dissertations – Dr. Aaron Norton
  - o Discussion only, no vote.

**ADJOURNMENT: 2:15 p.m.**