

## **Minutes of the Graduate Council**

**Date of Meeting: September 18, 2024**

The September 18, 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, Rachelle Campbell, Rigoberto Delgado, Helen Everts, Faheemah Hannah, AnaLouise Keating, Randa Keeley, Bethany Lazarus, Hyuk-Jin Lee, Mikyoung Lee, Alicia Lohmann, Rebecca Lucero Jones, Jennifer Martin, Hope McCarroll, Mindy Menn, Della Molloy-Daugherty, Kimberly Mory, Jonathan Olsen, Catalina Pislariu, Kemi Johnson Pratt, Jennifer Quong, Suzanne Sellers, Mark Tengesdal, Sharon Wang-Price, and Ann Wheeler

**Substitutes:** Tushar Shah for Derek Crews and Maria Barua for Zhen Li

### **MINUTES APPROVED**

- The April 17, 2024 meeting minutes were voted on and approved.

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

Welcome!

For those of you who are new, I'd like to give you some background on the purpose of Graduate Council. The Graduate Council is the delegate body of the Graduate Faculty. It formulates Graduate School policies and is responsible for reviewing and making recommendations on all matters affecting the University's graduate programs. Our accreditation body, The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACSCOC), stresses the importance of the faculty role in the formulation of academic policies and curricular matters. This council is the vehicle for these actions, and I appreciate your willingness to serve in this capacity.

To clarify my role on this council, I am an ex-officio member. Because I am the Dean of the Graduate School, I am automatically on this committee, but I am not a voting member. I bring matters to the council's attention, sometimes pointing out the need for a specific policy and providing background information or a starting point, and the parameters regarding federal, state, accrediting, and university standards. But the ultimate final product of our academic policies and curriculum is the result of the work of this council. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

### **Enrollment**

As of Census day, overall Graduate Enrollment is 5,322 students, down 1.2% from Fall 2023 (64 students). Of the total enrollment, 3,963 are master's students. Master's enrollment is down 1.6% - 65 students. Doctoral enrollment is 1,359 students – up 3 students from last year.

## **Financial Value Transparency**

The Department of Education has released new [Financial Value Transparency and Gainful Employment Rules](#) (FVT/GE). This impacts institutions that receive Title IV Federal Student Aid and became effective July 1, 2024. These rules have two outcomes:

1. Provide prospective students with information about financial outcomes
2. Establish minimum debt to earnings thresholds and accountability for programs that do not meet those thresholds

The Department of Education is establishing new Debt-to-Earnings ratios (D/E rates) and an Earnings Premium measure (EP measure) as measures of financial outcomes that prospective students and their families should consider in evaluating whether to pursue a particular educational program.

As part of the mandated reporting, we must collect information about which graduate programs require a licensure or certification in order to practice in the degree and how many graduates passed a licensure/certification exam. If licensure or certification is optional for practice, we don't have to report it. This is a critical part of the program metrics, and we need this information from you. If you have multiple programs in the same CIP code (such as a master's/doctoral degree or a certificate/master's degree), please report separately for each program.

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

- Welcome back!
- Target X update
  - Things are coming along, and we are making progress.
  - Please advise me of any issues.
- OnBase update
  - Training sessions are still being offered, and additional dates will be announced soon.
- Graduate Faculty List
  - Please provide information on new graduate faculty so I can add them to the list for notifications.

## **GUEST SPEAKERS**

- Mary Rosene and Dr. Gray Scott
  - Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)
  - Substantive change FAQ and guidelines

## **SUMMARY REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES**

- Executive Committee – Chair Dr. Randa Keeley & Vice Chair Dr. Mindy Menn
  - Randa Keeley: A reminder that only voting members can vote. Please take back the information that we share here at Graduate Council to the department, schools, or programs that you represent so that they are informed about what happened at our meeting.
  - Mindy Menn: Welcome everyone to another academic year. I think we are going to have another productive and impactful year and I am looking forward to working together. I would like to remind everyone to sign on a couple of minutes early, if you can, to help us meet quorum and help us start the meetings on time.
- Research Committee – Dr. Catalina Pislauri
  - I am the new chair and I look forward to working with everyone this academic year.
- Academic Standards Committee – Dr. Lee Brown
  - This committee reviews policies and procedures that influence the Graduate School. If there is any work to be done or edits to be made, we do that as a committee and come back to the full Graduate Council for feedback, votes, and approvals. I am excited to start and have another productive year.
- Academic Programs Committee – Dr. Ann Wheeler
  - This committee looks at program proposals and everyone on the sub-committee has access to our shared Google Drive, and we already have a few proposals for next month. I will send you an email shortly.
- Membership Committee – Pending a vote
  - Pending a nomination and vote

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Academic Programs Committee –**

- No proposals or recommendations until the next meeting.
- Proposal deadline dates for submission can be found on the Graduate School website.

### **2. Membership Committee –**

- Voting on faculty status applications will take place at the next meeting.
- Applications must be in by September 30, 2024.

3. Nominations and a vote for the 2024-2025 Chair of the Membership Committee.

- The nomination of Dr. Dayna Averitt as Chair of the Membership Committee was voted on and approved.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Dissertation and Thesis Defense Deadline - Dr. Ruth Johnson

- Discussion only, no vote.

2. Variable Dissertation Credit - Dr. Carolyn Kapinus

- Discussion only, no vote.

**ADJOURNMENT: 2:19 p.m.**

**\*Next Graduate Council meeting will be Wednesday, October 16, 2024.**