

## MINUTES

*The fifth meeting of the Graduate Council for 2016-2017 year took place Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 3:00 in Room 302C Brookstown (Graduate School @ Brookstown).*

**PRESENT:** Leah McCoy, David John, Nicholette Allred, Mike Furr, Erik Brady, Fadi Marayati, Brad Jones, Dwayne Godwin, Sarah Lafferty

**ABSENT:** Robert Hampson, Ellen Kirkman, Hui-Wen Lo, Tim Howard, Jason Grayson, Ralph D'Agostino, Ananda Mitra, Ellen Kirkman, Gloria Muday

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

1. 2-6-17 Graduate Council Minutes  
Motion to approve, seconded. Approved unanimously.
2. GSA Report  
David John attended to the GSA meeting to explain the Leave Absence policy. The policy was well received by the students. Debbie Newsome also attended the meeting and was able to answer several student questions.

The GSA is proceeding with plans to attend the March for Science. 51 students responded positively to a survey regarding participation. The GSA will submit a proposal for support to the Graduate School with information on transportation vendor.

### 3. Committee Reports

#### **A. Curriculum Committee** (Leah McCoy, *Chair*)

##### 1. Course Change Proposals

Course Number	Course Name	Action
MST 651	Introduction to Mathematical Modeling	ADD
MST 757	Stochastic Processes and Application	CHANGE
MST 653/ MTH 653	Probability Models	DELETE

The Curriculum committee reviewed requests, all seemed to be straightforward and in order. The committee made a motion to approve all. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

#### **B. Credentials Committee** (Nicholette Allred, *Chair*)

##### 1. Nominations for Graduate Faculty

Name	Department/Graduate Program Affiliation
Cheyenne Carter, PhD	Counseling
Fei Xing, PhD	Cancer Biology
James D. Ververs, PhD	Biomedical Engineering
Rowena Rowie Kirby-Straker, PhD	Communication
David Stokes Piercy, MFA	Communication
Xin Ming, PhD	Cancer Biology

The Credentials Committee reviewed each request separated.

- Cheyenne Carter's nomination satisfied the teaching and scholarship criteria. This individual plans to mentor and be a thesis advisor.
- Fei Xing's nomination satisfied criteria.
- James Ververs' request; has teaching experience and scholarship- only if counting a paper that is in the process of being accepted and does not have official citation. No mention of current mentoring, but individual has expressed desire to serve as a graduate student advisor. Nicholette Allred will follow up with him and request citation before nomination will be approved. In the meantime, Dr. Ververs can be named temporary GF (if necessary).
- Rowena Rowie Kirby-Straker's nomination satisfied teaching and scholarship criteria. She will potentially serve as a Master thesis committee member
- David Stokes Piercy's request satisfies criteria. He has been approached by Communication graduate students about serving on thesis committees.
- Xin Ming's nomination satisfied criteria.

The committee addressed several issues that present themselves in Graduate Faculty nominations; each campus has different qualifications for titles; "Assistant Teaching Professors" and "Associate Teaching Professors". In some departments there is no expectation of these individuals to do research. In other departments, they are more than welcome to serve on committees. This raises the issue of, if the Graduate Council grants Graduate Faculty status, does that mean that we give full license to these individuals that they may chair a graduate thesis or dissertation committee? The Council feels that this is best left to departmental discretion.

The Credentials committee made a motion to accept all Graduate Faculty nominations except Dr. Ververs' (whom N. Allred will contact). This motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

2. Re-credentialing

Sarah Lafferty informed the committee that the Re-credentialing list would be added to Dropbox for review, along with completed re-credentialing forms. This year there are ~93 Graduate Faculty members due for re-credentialing.

Leah McCoy and Dwayne Godwin volunteered to help review the re-credentialing forms.

**C. Policy Committee** (David John, *Chair*)

1. Leave of Absence

David John and Debbie Newsome both attended the GSA meeting to present the Leave of Absence Policy.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Melson Committee Formation

The Melson review committee is still in need of a 3<sup>rd</sup> member for PhD nomination review. Sarah Lafferty will reach out and find a volunteer.

2. Request Regarding Certificate in Medieval and Early Modern Studies- bulletin change

The Medieval and Early Modern Studies department submitted this bulletin change to reflect the Religious Studies Graduate Program's decision to remove themselves from the Certificate Option. The change was simply a removal of the Religious Studies name from the bulletin entry.

A motion was made to approve this request. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved

\*Will not require Faculty vote\*

3. Proposed Changes to the Graduate Program in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics

This was a straightforward request from the Mathematics & Statistics program to change their prefix. A motion was made to approve this change, was seconded, and unanimously approved.

4. Long-Range Planning Committee – Gloria Muday

Mike Furr relayed an update from the Long-Range Planning Committee. The Long Range Planning committee (Gloria Muday, Ellen Kirkman, Mike Furr, Robert Hampson) met in the week prior to Graduate Council. Everyone compared notes about what has been going on across different program, and campuses; including processes, and various big picture problems facing graduate programs and students, and compiled a list of concerns. They put these issues into Qualitrics survey to send to Graduate Program directors and rate how big of a problem each issue is, in order to direct where we should be focusing our efforts first.

In spite of the Graduate Program Directors' document to the Provost, this committee would like to nail down specific concerns and get data on real action. The Graduate Program Directors on the Reynolda Campus have not been regularly meeting this year. Once the committee has this data, they will then meet with Program Directors and review list, and then proceed to meet with the Provost and Deans.

5. Bulletin Change:

Change: Page 16 to allow TAs to work for up to 20 hours, and to allow partial scholarship recipients to act as TAs or GAs. Proposed changes in parentheses below:

“FINANCIAL AID  
Reynolda Campus

On the Reynolda campus, full-tuition scholarships, partial-tuition scholarships, fellowships, graduate assistantships, teaching assistantships, and research assistantships are available to qualified students. Assistantships and fellowships (may) include tuition scholarships as part of the grant. An assistantship **(may)** include tuition scholarship plus compensation for services rendered. Assistants work from 12 to **(20)** hours per week and carry a normal course load.”

This change was requested in response to Mathematics & Statistics asking to increase the stipends of their TA's instead of adding an additional TA. Longer hours, with fewer TA's. This would raise the cap and allow programs to decide what they would like to do. The TA letters would no longer specify a number of hours. Currently the upper limit is 15 hours. These programs will most likely go to 18 hours, but this would leave a little wiggle room.

A motion was made to approve this change, motion seconded, and unanimously approved.

6. Dr. Godwin would like the Policy Committee to start thinking about a specific Code of Conduct policy. To be addressed next academic year.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Upcoming Graduate Council Election

Meeting Adjourned at 3:54pm