

**University Graduate Council**  
**February 3, 2021**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Carla Calarge, A&L; Eric Berlatsky, A&L; Mahyar Shirazi, Medicine; Anita Pennathur, Business; Paul Peluso, Education - UGC Chair; Ali Danesh, Education; Mihaela Cardei, Engineering; Francisco Presuel-Moreno, Engineering; David Newman, Nursing; Dawn Froot, Library; Christopher Beetle, Science; Marianne Porter, Science.

**Others Present:** Brian Farrell, Graduate College; Robert Stackman, Graduate College; Aaron Tramp, Graduate College; William Kalies, Science.

**Absent:** Manny Gonzalez, CSWCJ; Karina Cruz, GPSA.

- I.** The UGC meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by UGC Chair, Paul Peluso.
- II.** No announcements.
- III.** The minutes from the UGC Meeting held on December 16, 2020 were unanimously approved by the Council.
- IV.** Curricula items from GPC meeting held on January 27, 2021 submitted by GPC Chair, Chris Beetle, for approval by UGC to move forward to Senate Steering meeting on February 18, 2021.
  - A. Chris made a motion for all the curricula items forwarded from the GPC Meeting be considered separately from the Inactive Course Review submitted by the Registrar's office.
    1. Dean Stackman, from the Graduate College, expressed concern, via an email to the Chair, with the two combined degree proposals from the College of Engineering & Compute Science.
      - a. His main concern was, with the rigor of the undergraduate Nursing degree, it does not appear that there is any room in the program for Graduate level coursework.
        - i. Is this really a traditional combined program in the spirit of other existing combined degree programs at FAU?
    2. Liana Smith, Asst. Dean of Degree Completion Services, reiterated this point to the UGC membership.
    3. Mihaela Cardei, Engineering: In discussions with the College of Nursing, Joy Longo, many of these Nursing students enter the program having already taken many of the undergraduate courses which would leave room for up to 9 Graduate level courses.
    4. Brian Hodge, Registrar: The new flight plan covers most coursework issues. Joy's statement may bring up other issues due to applicability of Graduate courses to both degrees and whether they would qualify for financial aid.
    5. Mihaela: This program will require students working closely with their advisor.
    6. Liana: Are the shared Graduate courses listed in the course catalog?

- a. Mihaela: Not at the present time.
  - 7. Liana: Concurred with Mihaela that this will require a great deal of planning early on with advisors.
  - 8. Motion and second to approve curricula items submitted by GPC.
    - a. Approved by the UGC membership.
  - 9. Inactive Course Review
    - a. Brian Hodge: This process was reworked to align with the academic calendar.
    - b. Motion and second to approve this item as submitted by GPC.
      - i. Approved by the UGC membership.
- V. Graduate Dean's Report - Liana Smith on behalf of Dean Stackman
  - A. Attendance Verification Discussion
    - 1. This initiative has been moved back to Fall, 2021.
- VI. Additional Discussion Items
  - A. Dissertation Discussion
    - 1. This was brought before the Faculty Senate and approved by them.
    - 2. The Provost commended UGC for their work on this and held it up as an example for others across campus to follow.
      - a. Eric Berlatsky, A&L: The UGC memo stated that those serving on these committees should be compensated and left to the discretion of the individual colleges. The Provost hinted that there should be a "one size fits all" policy put in place.
        - i. Paul Peluso, UGC Chair: There e needs to be some direction from the Provost's office that is made explicit but this should remain the purview of the individual colleges.
      - b. Chris Beetle: This has already been discussed with the BoT and Kevin Wagner. Once a draft exists, it should be reviewed by the UGC before moving forward to ensure it fits UGC's original intent.
  - B. Canvas Usage Requirement – Chris Beetle
    - 1. If this is going to take effect in Fall, 2021, it needs to be addressed this semester.
      - a. We need to meet with the people who are developing this initiative to make sure we are all on the same page.
        - i. Endorsement from UGC would give the Provost full backing and "close the loop" when it is presented to the full faculty body.
      - b. An agenda item should be scheduled at one of the remaining UGC meetings so everyone can understand why this is being done.
        - i. A representative from the Provost's office and OIT should be present to answer any questions.
        - ii. This seems innocuous but it could go to obnoxious real quick => the COVID attestation in Workday was given as an example.
      - c. Marianne Porter, Science: The speaker at the Diversity Symposium last week gave some action items to aid with diversity.
        - i. Getting rid of GRE was one.

- ii. Fee waivers for students was another.
- iii. Diversity Initiative: put in place an actual line item in the budget for this.
- d. Chris: Waiving GRE or application fees, I'm sure, has some data to support these claims. Asked Marianne if she could find this data.
- e. Mihaela: GradCAS requires one payment but can be used for multiple institutions.
- f. Chris: There should be a catalog entry stating that GRE is not required but if students submit scores they will be used in admission's decision.
- g. Manny Gonzalez, CSWCJ: There is variance among scholars as to the effectiveness and predictive success of GRE scores.
- h. Liana: We don't want to discount these scores in rankings and/or admission's numbers.
- i. Marianne: Many big programs have already gotten rid of GRE scores.
- j. Chris: Even if UGC makes no recommendation to colleges, we could still share this information with them.
- k. Marianne: There may be many programs on campus that are already very diverse and may not need this as much as others.

**VII.** Meeting adjourned by UGC Chair, Paul Peluso at 2:50 p.m.

*The next University Graduate Council meeting is March 3, 2021.*