

University Graduate Council
September 16, 2020
Meeting Minutes

Present: Eric Berlatsky, A&L; Anita Pennathur, Business; Manny Gonzalez, CSWCJ; Mihaela Cardei, Engineering; Christopher Beetle, Science; Paul Peluso, UGC Chair; Ali Danesh, Education; David Newman, Nursing; Dawn Froot, Library; Marianne Porter, Science.

Others Present: Robert Stackman, Graduate College; Brian Hodge, Registrar; Brian Farrell, Graduate College; Debra Szabo, Office of the Provost; William Kalies, Science.

Absent: Clifford Brown, A&L; Mahyar Shirazi, Medicine; Karina Cruz, GPSA.

- I.** The UGC meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm by UGC Chair, Paul Peluso.
 - A. Paul congratulated Marianne Porter, College of Science, on receiving a grant from the National Science Foundation.
 - B. The minutes from the Combined GPC/UGC Meeting held on August 19, 2020 were unanimously approved by the Council.
 - C. Curricula items from GPC submitted by GPC Chair, Chris Beetle, for approval by UGC to move forward to Senate Steering meeting on October 1, 2020.
 1. Curricula items were approved unanimously by UGC to move forward to Senate Steering.
 - a. All curricula items should go on the Consent Agenda.
 - i. Approved unanimously by the UGC membership.

II. Discussion Items

- A. Certificate Proposal – Brian Hodge, Registrar
 1. Students are encouraged to declare their interest in pursuing a certificate as soon as possible.
 2. Certificates should be awarded as soon as they are earned but no later than the awarding of the degree.
 - a. The goal is to award certificates in a timely manner
 - b. Recency of credit: No later than 5 years from initial enrollment in coursework.
 - c. Transfer of credit: Up to 25% of accepted transfer credits may apply.
 3. Paul Peluso: How does this impact Financial Aid?
 - a. Coursework for a certificate does not qualify for financial aid unless the course is required to progress toward graduation.
 4. A motion was made, and seconded, to move this item forward to Steering for consideration.
 - a. Approved unanimously by the UGC membership.
- B. Graduate Dean's Report – Robert Stackman, GC Dean
 1. Graduate College Governance Document

- a. The goal of this document is to make it easier to obtain Graduate Faculty Status.
 - b. The proposed term would be changed from 5 years to 7 years.
 - c. The individual colleges would communicated to the Graduate College as to who would be renewed every 7 years.
 - d. Make-up of Doctoral Supervisory Committees
 - i. Committees would be comprised of at least 3 members with one member coming from outside the department/university.
 - e. This document is meant to set a floor for the colleges to follow. If individual colleges choose to add more stringent measures, then can.
2. Chris Beetle brought up 3 points:
 - a. UGC should defer moving on this until the results of the survey are back.
 - b. This document should go forward as a discussion item to Steering.
 - c. Can we verify the accuracy of Graduate Faculty eligible to vote on this item?
 3. Paul Peluso addressed appointing committee members from outside the University.
 - a. It was addressed at today's GADC Meeting that committee members serving only on these committees would not require a background check.
 - i. Would a new memo from the Provost resolve this?
 - ii. Chris suggested finding specific examples of this issue and possibly have someone from HR come before the Senate to explain why their policy is different from Academic Affairs' policy.
 - iii. There should be a written policy to address this.
 - iv. Bill Kalies, College of Science and Manny Gonzalez, CSWCJ have both had issues with this in the last year. They have almost "defaulted" to having background checks done but they have several pending that they would rather not push for background checks.
 - v. Eric Berlatsky, A&L: This hasn't been much of an issue but those from outside would probably lean toward not participating if background check were required.
 - vi. Anita Pennathur, Business: Not really an issue as her experience has been committees comprised of FAU faculty.
 - vii. Mihaela Cardei, Engineering: It would be nice to have a written policy to clarify this issue.
 - viii. Dr. Stackman will share the email from HR with the UGC members for review and we can invite a representative from HR to the next UGC meeting to discuss further.

4. Dr. Stackman encouraged UGC members to get information out to their colleagues about the upcoming Graduate College Open House.
5. Dr. Stackman also reminded UGC members to share information on Health Insurance as well.

III. Open Forum

- A. No discussion items.

IV. Meeting adjourned by UGC Chair, Paul Peluso at 3:15 p.m.

The next University Graduate Council meeting is October 14, 2020.