

**University Graduate Council
October 9, 2019
Meeting Minutes**

Present: Marianne Porter, Science; Paul Peluso, UGC Chair; Christopher Beetle, Science; Clifford Brown, A&L; Mihaela Cardei, Engineering; Arthur Sementelli, CDSI; Dawn Froot, Library; Manny Gonzalez, CDSI; Ali Danesh, Education; Adam Bradford, GPC Chair, A&L; Darren Pikul, GPSA.

Others Present: Nancy Condemi, Graduate College; Liana Smith, Graduate College; Brian Farrell, Graduate College; Charlie Gleek, A&L; Ashley George, A&L.

Absent: Mahyar Shirazi, Medicine; David Newman, Nursing; Anita Pennathur, Business; Education; Sabrina Sembiente, Education; Ramesh Teegavarapu, Engineering; Robert Stackman, Graduate College.

- I.** Meeting called to order by UGC Chair, Paul Peluso, at 2:03 pm.
- II.** The minutes from the last UGC meeting on September 11th were unanimously approved.
- III.** The below items/curriculum proposals were reviewed:

New Curriculum Proposals for October 09, 2019

Curriculum Document Type	Title	College (Department)	Credit	Action
Reviewers by College: Library, Science				
Course Change	SOW6653- Social Work Practice with Vulnerable Children and Families	CDSI	N/A	A
New Course	SOW6359- Couple Therapy in Social Work Practice	CDSI	3	AC (changes made)
Program Change	Master of Science in Criminology and Criminal Justice	CDSI	N/A	A
Program Change	Graduate Certificate in Addictions	CDSI	N/A	AC (changes made)
Program Change	School of Social Work	CDSI	N/A	A
Reviewers by College: Arts & Letters, CDSI				
Course Change	MHS7402- Advanced Counseling Theories: Brief Therapies	Education	3	AC (changes made)
Reviewers by College: Nursing, Science				
Course Change	MDE8011- Elective Rotation	Medicine	6-12	AC (changes made)
Reviewers by College: Medicine, Business, Engineering				
Program Change	Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)	Nursing	N/A	A

Reviewers by College: Engineering, Business				
Program Change	MS Environmental Science	Science	N/A	A

- IV. All agenda items recommended by the GPC were unanimously approved by UGC to move forward to the Steering meeting on October 24, 2019.
- V. GPSA announcements and discussion:
- a. Darren Pikul, GPSA President, along with Graduate students Charlie Gleek and Ashley George from A&L, submitted 2 resolutions to UGC for consideration to go before the Steering committee at the meeting on October 24, 2019.
 - i. Resolution 1 calls on the Provost to allocate funds for a stipend payment to qualified graduate students, by the end of the 2019 calendar year, consistent with previous payments made by the University as a form of appreciation for their contributions to the University.
 - ii. Resolution 2 calls on the Provost to update the Faculty Senate at the meeting scheduled for December 2, 2019 as to the specifics, timeline and other relevant policy, funding and cost details related to Graduate Assistant health insurance benefits as part of their employment at Florida Atlantic University.
 - b. Paul Peluso, UGC Chair, spoke to the mandate by President Kelly to earmark \$1.8 million for Graduate student healthcare.
 - i. Darren Pikul expressed concerns from GPSA with the time constraints to get this implemented by Fall, 2020 per the Provost's directive and the President's mandate.
 - ii. GPSA wants to ensure that their concerns are documented and voted on by the Faculty Senate.
 - c. Adam Bradford, A&L, expressed his feelings that the Provost has been very open and vocal about this in the past and felt a better strategy might be to speak with the Provost directly and get this on the agenda for the Steering committee.
 - i. Chris Beetle, Science, concurred, feeling it would be prudent to ask the Provost for a report as opposed to demanding a resolution be brought before the Senate.
 - d. Paul Peluso addressed this by discussing the Tuition Waiver Allocation Committee which was recently formed. He felt both of these resolutions could be addressed, and responses solicited from the Provost, in the context of the goal with which this committee has been tasked.
 - e. Adam Bradford mentioned that it's understood that there are inequities across the University and solving these is going to take a lot of sacrifice, and pain, from and by the colleges.
 - f. Liana Smith, Asst. Dean Graduate College, mentioned there are ongoing discussions with LeAnn Gutierrez and Stacy Volnick regarding health insurance

and whether insurance should be mandated for Graduate students which would allow for negotiation of better premium rates.

- g. GPSA has requested to be part of the conversation regarding healthcare but thus far they have not been included.
 - i. Adam Bradford feels that GPSA may be jumping the gun on being involved. Currently, this is still a budgetary issue, not a “picking what kind of healthcare plan are we talking about” issue.
- h. Adam Bradford felt that, at least pertaining to the stipend issue (Resolution 1), it is being addressed to the wrong person. The President has final say on budget allocations.
 - i. Chris Beetle also feels this should be addressed at the department level. Are their resources being utilized efficiently?
 - ii. Adam Bradford felt that a better approach might be to address the inequity issue rather than a stipend amount issue.
- i. A motion was made by Paul Peluso to draft a series of questions to be submitted to the Provost in order to engage in a meaningful dialogue. This motion was approved unanimously by the UGC and will move forward. The questions would include the following:
 - i. What do you anticipate as a start date for Graduate students to be able to enroll in a health insurance plan?
 - ii. Has the University solicited quotes from insurance companies? If so, what are the projected costs? If not, when do anticipate this will take place?
 - iii. What are the terms of the insurance coverage? Will it be mandatory or elective? How is GPSA feedback being considered in this process? If it is not currently, at what point will it be?
 - iv. Who will be covered? Will there be a minimum FTE requirement for coverage?
 - v. Will this be sustained? In other words, will recurring funds be available for providing health insurance?
 - vi. What is the plan for addressing Graduate Student Stipends? Are you concerned with the inequities across the University? Are there plans for addressing these inequities and can the Senate help?

VI. Graduate College Updates:

- a. On behalf of Dr. Robert Stackman, Liana Smith discussed the following:
 - i. 3MT is currently slated for April, 2020.
 - ii. Graduate Faculty Governance document to be updated by UGC. UGC approved motion to submit an amended Governance document for consideration by UGC.

VII. Meeting adjourned by UGC Chair, Paul Peluso at 3:58 pm

The next University Graduate Council meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2019