

**University Graduate Council**  
**October 14, 2020**  
**Meeting Minutes**

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

**Others Present:** Brian Farrell, Graduate College; Liana Smith, Graduate College; William Kalies, Science.

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

- I.** The UGC meeting was called to order at 2:03 pm by UGC Chair, Paul Peluso.
  - A. No announcements.
  - B. The minutes from the UGC Meeting held on September 14, 2020 were unanimously approved by the Council.
- II.** Curricula items from GPC meeting held on October 7, 2020 submitted by GPC Chair, Chris Beetle, for approval by UGC to move forward to Senate Steering meeting on October 29, 2020.
  - A. Curricula items were approved unanimously by UGC to move forward to Senate Steering.
    1. The Program Change Proposal submitted by Arts & Letters and the four (4) Course Change Proposals submitted by Education were approved by the Catalog Revision Committee (CRC) and do not need to move forward to Steering. They can go straight to the Registrar.
    2. The New Course Proposal submitted by Education and the New Course Proposal submitted by Engineering will be submitted to Steering on the Consent Agenda.
    3. The New Program Proposal submitted by Science will be submitted to Steering on the Action Agenda.
  - B. All of the above were approved unanimously by the UGC membership.
- III.** Discussion Items
  - A. The November, 2020 UGC meeting needs to be moved from Wednesday, November 11, 2020 due to campus being closed for Veteran's Day.
    1. A motion was made, and seconded, to move the November, 2020 UGC meeting to Friday, November 13, 2020 at 10:00 am.
      - a. The motion was approved unanimously by the UGC members.
  - B. Discussion about Dissertations
    1. Paul Peluso suggested postponing this discussion until the November, 2020 UGC meeting to allow more time for faculty/colleges to return the Dissertation questionnaire and to review the Graduate College Governance Document as it pertains to Dissertation Review Committees.

- a. The UGC membership agreed and the discussion will be postponed until the November, 2020 UGC meeting.
  2. Chris Beetle inquired as to what, exactly, is the UGC looking for in this discussion.
    - a. Clarification on the number of members on a Dissertation Review Committee.
    - b. Clarification on any “outsiders” on these committees.
    - c. Clarification as to who can serve on these committees.
    - d. How will this appear on faculty assignments?
- C. Graduate College Governance Document
  1. This item will also be postponed until the November, 2020 UGC meeting at which time additional discussion will be considered prior to a vote by the UGC members on moving this forward.
- D. Executive Order from the White House
  1. The Graduate College wanted to make sure everyone was aware of this order from the White House.
  2. The order is being reviewed to ensure FAU is in compliance.
  3. Chris Beetle: If this Executive Order applies to courses and syllabi, this could be a big issue.
  4. Eric Berlatsky: My perception is that this has more to do with Federal funding, not courses or coursework.
  5. Manny Gonzalez: Legal is still evaluating this as to how and when this might impact the University.
  6. Liana Smith: A committee was established this past Summer to look at this Executive Order as it pertains to training for GTAs.
  7. Chris: If somethings comes down from the Provost, President or Academic Affairs then it can be addressed as appropriate and in necessary.
  8. UGC will continue to monitor this.
- IV. Roundtable Discussion
  - A. Marianne Porter: The College of Science just had their first Covid-related death, a faculty member. What resources, if any, are available for faculty, staff or students?
    1. Liana: The Graduate College has funding and resources available to assist with grief counseling, etc. Liana offered to email information to the UGC members regarding this.
    2. Eric: Counseling Services will offer assistance as well.
    3. Paul: The Faulk Center, in Boca Raton, offers services on a sliding scale.
- V. Meeting adjourned by UGC Chair, Paul Peluso at 3:04 p.m.

*The next University Graduate Council meeting is November 13, 2020.*