

Graduate Programs Committee – Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: September 28, 2023

Attendance: Georgia Evans (Chair), Jairus-Joaquin Matthews (Minutes-Taker), Kim Huett, Kyle Lorenzano, Scott Gordon, Matt Varga, Charlie Sicignano, Jennifer Weber, Marie-Cecile Bertau, Sarah Williamson, Agnieszka Chwialkowski, Patrick Hadley, Caley Motes, Sophia Robinson Harris,

Guests: Robert Griffin

- I. Call to Order: 11:00 AM
- II. Introductions: Graduate Program Committee (GPC) members and guests introduced themselves, their affiliation, and their experience on the committee.
- III. GPC Responsibilities: Georgia reviewed the purpose of the committee. This is a standing committee of the Faculty Senate with several functions. The committee receives and votes on modifications to graduate curricula. The committee recommends policies and procedures to the Senate. The committee leads comprehensive program reviews. The committee develops policies related to graduate faculty. The committee membership comprises faculty from each academic unit, representatives from the Graduate School, the Provost's Office, the Registrar's Office, and a graduate student representative.

IV. Program and Course Proposals

A. College of Education (COE)

1. Department of Literacy and Special Education

a) READ 7201

Request: Modify Credit Hours

Rationale: READ 7201 was not intended as a variable credit course. The recent offering of variable credit hours led to an oversight where several students only registered for 1 credit hour, causing potential discrepancies in academic records and challenges in meeting degree requirements. Adopting a fixed 3-credit hour designation will simplify administrative processes by preventing potential issues in the future and adequately reflecting the course's workload and academic rigor. This shift to a fixed 3 credit hour structure will uphold the consistency, quality, and integrity of the course and eliminate potential administrative challenges and confusion for students.

Presented by Robert Griffin

Decision: Approved

2. Department of Leadership, Research, and School Improvement

a) School Improvement, Ed.D.

Request: Modify Program

Rationale: After consultation with the COE Dean's Office, the program, and the Graduate School, we would like to increase the number of credits students can apply to transfer into the program from 12 (currently) to 15 - to be counted towards the area of concentration only (see updated advisement program of study sheet attached). The proposed change aligns with the graduate transfer credit policy in the 2023-2024 Graduate Catalog. That policy allows transfer credit to contribute up to 25% of a graduate program, which would be 15 credit hours for the 60 credit hour School Improvement EdD

Decision: Approved

B. College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry (CACSI)

1. Department of Anthropology, Psychology, and Sociology

a) Sociology MA

Request: Modify Program Modality

Rationale: This change will broaden our appeal to students who cannot regularly commute to Carrollton and expands our recruitment pool to many more prospective students. . After making this change, we will be the only Sociology MA in Georgia to offer synchronously online courses. We will be uniquely positioned to offer students both the convenience of online classes along with high-quality teaching and mentoring.

Decision: Request to table this item until next month.

C. Richards College of Business

1. Department of Economics

Request: Modify Track/Concentration

Rationale: Currently the MS in Applied Business Analytics is set up so that students can specialize in the Data Intelligence track, Healthcare track, or Sports track. All students must take five core courses, four track specific courses and an elective. There is no provision for someone who wants a general Business Analytics degree using courses from multiple tracks. The General Business Track proposed consists of the five core courses, any two of any tracks “must take” courses and three electives from any of the tracks. This change also provides flexibility for students whose interests change over the

course of study as well as those who wish to complete the degree in a short time period.

Discussion: The committee discussed what is being changed based on this proposal and the impact. This proposal would allow a change of class options for students. This proposal limits the number of special approval requests that go to the Registrar. If students are changing the courses, this would allow the Registrar to modify Wolf Watch to match what the new requirements are. It was noted that this should also be reflected in the course catalog.

Decision: Approved

2. Department of Economics

Request: Course Addition

Rationale: The MS in Applied Business Analytics degree is aimed at providing students with practical knowledge of how data is used in the business world and the techniques used to analyze data for decision-making. This course would place the student in a real-world environment using actual business data to inform actual business decisions.

Discussion: The course addition request from Curriculog is ECON 6486, an internship in Applied Business Analytics. It was noted that each college has a different procedure for approval. Concerns were raised about the student learning outcomes, including that they weren't specific enough and that the language in the outcomes could be improved overall. A motion was made to table this proposal until receiving feedback for revision. A question was asked about the purpose of tabling instead of rejecting the proposal. A rejection would mean they would need to restart the entire proposal, which could create a two- to three-month delay. There are some potential options in Curriculog for modifications where it wouldn't have to go back through the various levels.

Decision: The motion to table the proposal was rejected 6-5. A motion was made to vote on the proposal. The proposal passed 8-3.

V. New Business (note any new business)

- A. Communications and Review: Georgia asked for additional email addresses for listserv communications. Kim offered to create a video resource for how to read Curriculog.
- B. Policy: Assistantship requests for next year are beginning October 1. Faculty can access resources and the request form. GPC and The Provost Council will be involved in the approval process beginning in the spring semester. This will allow GPC to understand the scope of the requests. The hope is that this will increase transparency in the process.

II. Announcements

- A. Chair-Elect Selection (Chair for 2024-25 Academic Year). The committee has been encouraged to begin the search for a Chair next year. This would be a Chair-Elect position that would receive mentorship this year. The Chair must be a member of the Faculty Senate. Cultivating senate leadership is something that has been encouraged.

III. Adjourn – Time: 12:10 PM.