**Graduate Council Meeting**

**March 26, 2021**

**Virtual**

**Minutes   
approved April 16, 2021**

**Faculty Present**: Andrea Bostrom, Wendy Burns-Ardolino, Shabbir Choudhuri, Xiang Ciao, Barbara Harvey, Jon Jeffryes, Rich Jelier, Courtney Karasinski, Karen Ozga, Jennifer Pope, Paulette Ratliff-Miller, Mark Staves, Joel Wendland-Liu, Michelle Wooddell

**Administrative Ex-Officio Present:** Irene Fountain, Tracey James-Heer, Mark Luttenton, Jennifer Palm, Jeffrey Potteiger, Ellen Schendel, Pam Wells

**Graduate Student Association:** John T. Jones

**Ex-Officio Students Present:** Amanda Filkins,Maggie Scannell

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| **AGENDA ITEM** | **DISCUSSION** | **ACTION/DECISION** |
| **I. Call to Order – A. Bostrom** | A. Bostrom called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. |  |
| **II. Approval of Agenda – A. Bostrom** |  | **Motion:** M. Staves moved to approve the agenda. W. Burns-Ardolino seconded. Motion passed unanimously. |
| **III. Approval of Minutes February 26, 2021– A. Bostrom** |  | **Motion:** W. Burns-Ardolino moved to approve. M. Staves seconded. Motion passed unanimously. |
| **IV. Chair’s Report – A. Bostrom** | A. Bostrom will work with the Chair-Elect, A. Campbell, on document formats and items she sends to ECS/UAS. |  |
| **V. Curriculum & Program Review Subcommittee Report – M. Staves** | Log 11535: Program Change Request - Advanced Practice Nursing - Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner  The GC-CPR approved the program change with minor changes requested, including using the term “emphasis.”  Program Review  The process and timeline for graduate program reviews were reviewed. The plan for 2021-22 is to have all external reviews done in the fall semester. |  |
| **VI. Policy Subcommittee Report – S. Choudhuri** | Workload Policy A subgroup was formed to revise the draft policy and make it more relevant. It is now in the GC-PC to review and make comments.  Dual Enrollment Policy This policy was voted on in the subcommittee with two changes to language to make it consistent with other policies, and to remove some of the language that if the student comes back in the future for a master’s degree, the GPD will have authority to accept the dual-credit courses for the master’s program. The draft policy will go to GPDs and the Provost’s Cabinet for feedback. This policy applies to 500 and 600 level courses.  Terminology The GC-PC continues to work on terminology. They tried to investigate the history behind terms, who controls them and how they are used, but there has been some contradictory information. A meeting with various constituents will take place on Monday, 3/29 to discuss.  Transfer of Credit to a Graduate Program  The draft policy for transfer of credit to a graduate program was previously approved by GC-PC and needs to be voted on at Graduate Council. The original policy speaks of regionally accredited institutions but should include nationally accredited institutions. |  |
| **VII. Graduate Student Association Report – J. Jones** | Recent Activity The GSA is finalizing elections. There were 2 nominees for president.  The GSA is evaluating a rebrand of the logo as it was created several years ago. They are also looking at more media visuals as a way of presenting the GSA, and bringing in insights from past GSA officers.  Future of GSA J. Jones and J. Brown met with Provost Cimitile and Deans Potteiger and Rullman to discuss student governance and how the GSA could have equal voice. The meeting was productive and timely. Often issues the Student Senate is working on are not relevant to graduate students. J. Potteiger commended the GSA president and vice-president for their professionalism in the meeting.  The GSA would like to have senator level seats for each graduate program so there is a body to call upon, and to have an equal voice on relevant faculty governance committees. As an example, currently a graduate student sits on UAS but they do not have a voice. A recommendation was made to include a graduate student on the Online Education and Micro-credential Committee. |  |
| **VIII. Dean’s Report – J. Potteiger** | The Graduate School Updates The Graduate School’s end-of-semester activities will continue as planned.  The Grad Showcase has 29 participants this year. Videos will be posted online and available April 13.  The Graduate Student Celebration/Dean’s Citations will be a live, virtual event on Friday, April 16, beginning at 6 PM. President Mantella and Provost Cimitile will provide remarks, live.  The Spring-Summer New Graduate Student Orientation is scheduled for May 5, virtually.  A project/thesis/dissertation workshop will be held on May 11, virtually.  Graduate Student Mental Health Task Force The task force is continuing its work and has several subgroups working on specific areas. Recommendations will be brought forward by the end of the Winter 2021 semester. The Graduate School will work on the recommendations over the summer and have in place by fall.  Graduate Program Review The program review schedule will go forward as normal. The expectation is to have external reviewers visit campus, with possibly virtual meetings depending on travel.  Instruction and Curriculum is scheduled for review in 2021-22. There are four separate sub areas, so it is unclear if there will be an individual review of each of the four areas or the entire degree. Consideration will need to be given on how this will be handled.  Michigan Graduate Deans Meeting The graduate deans from Michigan’s 15 public universities met virtually. The meeting was informative and it was noted that the challenges at GVSU are common at the other universities. Representatives from the Michigan Association of Public Universities spoke about legislative issues.  Vice Provost Kara Van Dam will attend the April 16 Graduate Council meeting. |  |
| **IX. Old Business** | There was no old business. |  |
| **X. New Business** | New Declaration Function for Certificates and Badges There is a new form in self-service Banner for students to declare an undergraduate certificate, badge, or graduate badge. Selection is done by level, so undergraduates can only select an undergraduate option, but graduate students may select either. Some selections require prior approval, so those go to the GPD and then to the Records office. The badge is posted on the transcript as secondary curriculum. Students can track their progress on micro-credentials via MyPath. Students must complete a declaration when they begin a badge and an application for the badge when complete. They do not necessarily complete a badge at the same time the degree is completed, so the badge application is separate from degree completion.  Current Concerns  Graduate Council members discussed concerns and challenges.  The number of students who want to continue classes entirely online is surprising.  Some faculty will be teaching hybrid courses, with some offered as hyflex courses, in that they offer both in-person and online at the same time. Hyflex courses can be challenging with regard to hearing what others are saying, technology issues, microphone issues, and ensuring that one person talks at a time. Students don’t necessarily get the same experience as they would fully online or fully in person.  Christine Rener of the Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center is heading an active learning classroom task force to examine the physical and technical needs of hyflex technology. Classrooms need to be built to handle the technological issues.  Students who are fully online need more interaction with faculty on an individual basis, one-on-one contact, multiple emails, etc. There needs to be a way to offer technology that is effective pedagogically, to provide more training for one-on-one contact, more integrated into teaching practice, and more sound pedagogically.  There has been some difficulty conveying to students that good quality learning is not just listening to lectures, but discussion, feedback on projects, and in-class work all contribute to learning. Students continue to have difficulty understanding their course even with recorded announcements and lectures.  Members discussed concerns about cheating. Exams can be designed to require students to study, to apply learning and discuss concepts. Using software such as Respondus can be an option but there has been pushback because of perceived biases.  Students need to learn how to learn beyond typical classroom learning. Over time, people learn in different ways throughout their lives, but students don’t necessarily see it this way. They need to have ownership of their own learning and use the resources available to them. |  |
| **XI. Adjournment** |  | **Motion:** S. Choudhuri moved toadjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:22 AM. |