



MEMORANDUM

TO: Felix Ngassa, Chair, ECS/UAS

FROM: Andrea Bostrom, Chair, Graduate Council

SUBJECT: Graduate Council Mid-Year Report

DATE: December 20, 2020

CC: Maria Cimitile, Provost
Jeff Potteiger, Graduate School
Jennifer Drake, CLAS
Annie Belanger, University Libraries
George Grant, CCPS
Mark Schaub, BCOIS
Diana Lawson, SCB
Cynthia McCurren, KCON
Roy Olsson, CHP
Paul Plotkowski, PCEC
Sherril Soman, COE
Loren Rullman, Dean of Students

Graduate Council Faculty, Student, Administrative Members, and Ex-officio members: D. Balfour (CCPS, Vice-Chair of Graduate Council), A. Bostrom (KCON, Chair of Graduate Council), W. Burns-Ardolino (BCOIS), A. Campbell (CLAS), X. Cao (PCEC), S. Choudhuri (PCEC, Chair of Graduate Council Policy Subcommittee), D. Conrad (KCON), I. Fountain (administrative), B. Harvey (UL), M. Harris (COE), T. James-Heer (ex-officio), J. Jeffryes (UL), R. Jelier (CCPS), C. Karasinski (CHP), S. Lipnicki (ex-officio), M. Luttenton (ex-officio), K. Ozga (CHP), E. Nichols (CCPS, replaced early in semester), R. Niu-Cooper (COE), J. Palm (administrative), J. Pope (SCB) J. Potteiger (ex-officio), P. Ratliff-Miller (SCB), E. Schendel (ex-officio), M. Staves (CLAS, Chair of Graduate Council Curriculum and Program Review Subcommittee), D. Vainner (ex-officio), P. Wells (ex-officio), J. Wendland-Liu (BCOIS).

Graduate Council Student Members: J. T. Jones (President, GSA; member of GC-CPR), J. Brown, P. Todd

Ex-Officio Students Attending: A. Filkins, M. Scannell

The Graduate Council (GC) convened on September 4, 2020 and met a total of five times through the end of November 2020. Because the GC addresses policy issues and reviews

graduate curriculum proposals and implements program reviews, members of the GC also serve on either the Graduate Council Curriculum and Program Review Subcommittee (GC-CPR, Mark Staves, Chairperson) or the Graduate Council Policy Subcommittee (GC-PC, Shabbir Choudhuri, Chairperson). With each college sending two faculty members to GC, each college is represented on both subcommittees. The GC-CPR and GC-PC generally meet twice each month in addition to regular GC meetings; however, this year we followed the guidance of the university to minimize non-essential meetings. The GC-PC met twice to begin one of this year's charges related to graduate faculty workload. They have also continued to examine the terminology used in graduate programs across university related to tracks/specialties/emphases etc. The GC-CPR subcommittee needed to meet more frequently to approve curriculum items. These meetings included review and a recommendation to GC for approval of one new program (MS in Water Resource Policy). Several program changes were also reviewed and approved in the following master's programs: the Combined Degree in Computing, Master of Health Science in Biomedical Science, MS in Medical Dosimetry, Literacy Studies (Elementary Reading), Literacy Studies (K-12 Reading Specialist), Literacy Studies (Secondary Reading), Clinical Dietetics, Criminal Justice, TESOL Updates for New Standards (for the current program following the moratorium for both TESOL and Applied Linguistics), MSE Biomed Program, and a change to the Badge in Web and Mobile Computing. The GC-CPR suspended program reviews for this academic year. One report for the Reading/Language Arts was completed and will be submitted to GC-CPR and the full GC in winter semester.

The GC received a memo from the ECS that set a general agenda for the 2020-2021 academic year. More specifically, the GC was charged with several tasks in that memo. The efforts of GC related to these charges are summarized below.

1. Review Graduate Faculty Workload

This review has just begun and, as requested, is focused on the significant area of focus as it relates to the quality of graduate education.

2. Mid-year Progress Report—this document

In an effort to engage more faculty in our shared governance system, prepare a 1-2 page mid-year progress report at the end of the Fall semester to be posted on the GC website and disseminated to ECS/UAS and College Deans (a full report is expected as usual at the end of the year).

The following charges are deferred for the time being and may be undertaken should time permit. Program review documents will receive a priority in the GC-CPR to prepare for when program reviews begin again next academic year.

3. Graduate Program Culminating Experiences

Review all culminating experiences of graduate programs and make recommendations as needed.

4. Graduate Student Experience

Define what the graduate student experience at GVSU should be, identify needs, and make recommendations to improve the graduate student experience as needed.

5. Graduate Program Review

Evaluate the graduate program review process, documents, and templates and revise as needed.