

**Graduate Council Meeting Agenda**  
**December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021– 3:30-5:00 p.m.**  
**ZOOM**

x	Jerry McMurtry	x	Kristin Henrich (Library)		Grant Harley (COS)
x	Chris Ludwig (EHHS)	x	Pedram Rezamand (At-Large/CALS)	X	Steffen Werner (At-Large/CLASS)
	Linda Chen (CBE)	x	Kelly Quinnett (CLASS)	x	Ata Zadehgo (ENGR)
	Dan Cronan (CAA)		Kerri Vierling (CNR/ENVS)	x	Seth Rose (GPSA)
x	Paul Hohenlohe (UWP)	x	Dan Strawn (CALC)		Alexander Blanco (GPSA)
x	Sarah Wu (At Large/ENGR)			x	

- I. Minutes from November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021
  - a. Approved unanimously
  
- II. Announcements
  - a. Assistant to the Dean position filled
    - i. Congratulations to Stephanie Thomas! Because she is moving into this role, we will soon have a new opening in the College of Graduate Studies main office (her previous position as Grad Coordinator/Thesis Administrator)
  - b. Reminder: Excellence Awards
    - i. We will be putting together review panels soon- you may receive an invitation to participate from Dean McMurtry.
  - c. Reminder: the 3MT competition is coming up Jan 27<sup>th</sup>. We are now accepting submissions, please encourage students to apply!
  - d. International students moving in early
    - i. This change helps undergraduate and graduate international students move into on campus housing early, so they don't have to find short term housing in the interim.
  - e. Grad Visit Day
    - i. COGS will partner with departments to fund travel to the UI campus for prospective graduate students that have applied to the university.
    - ii. We will cover up to \$400 of transportation costs and a night in the Best Western hotel, put on small program, and allow them to spend time with their potential department.
    - iii. Grad Visit Day will be hosted the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of February.
      1. More communication coming out soon- stay tuned for details!
  
- III. Old Business
  - a. Continuous enrollment
    - i. We are not quite ready to bring language to council for approval and are still having discussions with the Registrar's office.
    - ii. This item will be tabled until a future meeting.
  - b. 4+1 program template
    - i. The State Board approved this tuition incentive model.
    - ii. Students will be able to matriculate into a nonthesis grad degree program their 5<sup>th</sup> year at the UI with the undergraduate fee structure still in place. 6 credits can be counted towards both their undergraduate and graduate degree.
    - iii. We should have a final template to share the beginning of the Spring term.
    - iv. Members asked: does this apply to thesis students?

1. No, it's not likely students would be successful doing a thesis in one year. This program specifically aims to support professional master's (nonthesis) students.
- c. Ed Specialist Credit limit
- i. We have decided not to move forward with proposing a policy and will address each student situation individually.

#### IV. New Business

a. Curriculum items:

i. Architecture (MARCH)

1. <https://nextcatalog.uidaho.edu/programadmin/?key=35>
2. Approved unanimously

ii. Nutritional Sciences (M.S.)

1. <https://nextcatalog.uidaho.edu/programadmin/?key=435>
2. Nutritional Sciences will be offering thesis and nonthesis options, with less than 50% online.
3. Members asked- why is the non-thesis option 12 credits more than the thesis?
  - a. It requires one extra course every semester
4. More course information (on 18-19 courses, unspecified) listed at the end of the proposed change document.
5. Only 2 courses listed are in this discipline, the rest rely on other programs. The department agrees that this sits solely in CALS, but most of the classes come from outside CALS
6. Members suggested: if students must select from the provided list of courses there may be some issues.
  - a. They could make the courses that students can select from more clearly defined to help resolve this.
  - b. Normally thesis credits are set aside, not considered a "course". This should be made clearer as well.
7. Jerry will meet with department administrators to discuss council's concerns. The item will not be moved to a vote at this time.

iii. Nutritional Sciences (Ph.D.)

1. <https://nextcatalog.uidaho.edu/programadmin/?key=439>
2. This program also has requirements for courses outside of CALS.
3. 78 credits total are required. 3 seminar credits are required; additional specific courses required as well (in Stats, etc.).
4. This is not a distance program.
5. Members suggested: additional learning outcomes should be included.
6. Members stated: this proposal seems like a lot of coursework for a Ph.D. (only 15 credits of research). Will students end up having to fill out subwaivers to remove coursework requirements?
  - a. It's up to the department to decide what the balance of research and coursework looks like.
7. Members asked: is there a reason other FCS 500 level courses are not listed?
  - a. The other courses include all other divisions and are not necessary for this program.
8. Members asked: there are six AVS classes and the basis of science is similar, but the application is different, could these be widely used? Yes, by interested students.

9. Members expressed concerns about courses not being offered. Some 400 level courses could be used but this would have to be a significant minority.
    - a. Dr. Rezamand teaches 3 courses, but these courses aren't offered every year (they alternate years) when he has at least 8 students.
  10. Jerry will meet with department administrators to discuss council's concerns. The item will not be moved to a vote at this time.
- b. COGS petition appeal- transfer credits
    - i. A student petition appeal was discussed.
    - ii. 6 in favor, 5 opposed, 1 abstention. Approved.
  - c. GPSA Parental Leave Protection for Graduate Students
    - i. This item was halted prior to COVID and recently reevaluated by a few offices.
      1. Vetted with IPO and HR
    - ii. This protection supports non-paid parental leave up to 4 weeks for parents. Adjustments are being suggested mainly to coincide with the COGS form- Approval of Planned Leave. The student would fill this form out and make sure responsibilities were covered in the department during their absence.
    - iii. This is a common policy at most institutions. Some institutions even offer paid parental leave.
    - iv. This applies to professional program students as well as students in research programs. This would not impact law students.
    - v. There is a potential this could affect some accreditation processes, but that would be a case-by-case situation.
    - vi. Approved unanimously
  - d. Unofficial GRE scores in Slate
    - i. We have always required that official test scores are sent to the U of I by the testing institution. If admitted, official test scores would be required to verify the info is correct, but it would help to allow students to self-report at first to speed up the application process. Currently there are 40 applications that are incomplete because they're missing official GRE scores.
    - ii. Graduate Admissions is proposing we try allowing students to enter unofficial scores as an internal policy.
    - iii. If students were admitted based on their unofficial scores, it would technically be "tentative admission"- complete admission would be offered after providing official scores.
    - iv. Members asked- has a student ever been kicked out because of a discrepancy?
      1. One time a student had to take a semester off so they could complete a degree they said they had earned. Another time a student submitted a bogus "official" transcript, and their admission was denied, but this has only happened once.
    - v. With council's support, Graduate Admissions will begin drafting language/internal policies to put in place.
  - e. Additional documents in application
    - i. Most departments require a variety of documents to be submitted with a student's application.
    - ii. There are currently no "upload" tabs for items outside of the required documents. Graduate Admissions wants to create an option to upload additional, optional, materials such as article PDFs, portfolios, micro credentials, etc.
    - iii. Members asked:

1. Is this good for all students, even those who don't have those additional materials?
  2. How would this work for students that don't know how to compress videos or other large materials?
  3. Usually, students include these things in their resume.; is this necessary? Do we want to entice people to upload more that we need to evaluate?
- iv. Graduate Admissions can make this selectively available for departments that want to offer this option- If you or your department wants the option, please reach out and let us know.
- f. Full time Graduate Assistants (Faculty Senate update, FSH language)
- i. Those at the Faculty Senate meeting voted on language that came forward from COGs about full time GAs. This language is already our practice, but confusion around the language in the FSH is causing more confusion than clarity. Jerry recommends kicking this part of the language out because it is already in the catalog and already in practice. This language is redundant in the FSH, removing it or keeping it in does not affect the practice.
  - ii. Members clarified: International students are required to be full-time, regardless of their status as a Graduate Assistant. All Graduate Assistants must be registered full-time and be in good academic standing to remain eligible for their assistantship appointment. Graduate Assistants who are full-time (20 hours a week) and part-time (10 hours a week) are both affected by this policy. "Part-time" Graduate Assistants are referred to in this manner not because of their registration requirements, but because of the number of hours they work each week.
    1. If a Graduate Assistant does not register full-time (9 or more credits), Student Accounts notifies the COGS office so we can work with the student to help them register full-time, as they are not eligible to receive the tuition benefits, or retain their assistantship, if they are enrolled part time.
    2. The only exception to this rule is during the summer term, where Graduate Assistants are only required to register for a single credit to be eligible for their assistantship.

Meeting adjourned at 5:03