

**Graduate Council Meeting Minutes
January 19th, 2021– 3:30-5:00 p.m.**

ZOOM NEW LINK [xxxxxx](#)

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

- I. Minutes from December 15th, 2021
 - a. Approved with 3 abstentions.

- II. Announcements
 - a. Reminder: Excellence Awards due Jan. 28th
 - b. Reminder: 3MT coming up Jan 27th- now accepting submissions until Jan 21st. 180 seconds. Statewide event Feb 15 winners go to Western Regionals and so forth.
 - c. Reminder: Grad Visit Day-
 - i. Student Names due by morning of January 24.
 - ii. Event is February 11th
 - iii. 12 spots left as of 1/16/2022. COGS pays up to \$400 travel costs and 2 nights in hotel.

- III. New Business
 - a. Discussion on how online students must opt out each semester on the SHIP requirement. Perhaps a solution can be worked out with SHIP to make this less cumbersome, so students opt out for the entire program.
 - i. Jerry announced discussions on the retooling of the support system--an additional half million dollars is needed to cover it.
 - ii. If Grad students are not on parents' insurance, SHIP is ok, but not covered generally. Statewide program would extend risk pool to cover all grad students for all grad programs around the state.
 - iii. Also noted: Insurance is not mandatory at other institutions.
 - iv. For International students—some grants cover it, but not institutionally.
 - v. Other members mentioned: partners are excluded so they have a lag or gap in coverage.
 - vi. Further description: fulltime students are automatically charged. Online only are charged and having to waive out every semester is onerous.
 - b. Conversation about unclear language explaining the Committee Chair requirements.
 - i. The MP should be in the same "academic program" as the student. Example issue raised: Student in NR, PhD program asks for MP from different college, but related discipline/focus. Suggestion: affiliate MP to college to serve on that committee.
 - ii. Member asked if merged programs automatically become affiliate faculty? —Answer: If department administration allows the affiliate faculty to serve on said committee.
 - iii. Committee membership minimum qualifications: any member must have the degree the student is seeking. (Add to next agenda for review.)

- c. Discussion about supporting area and course level restrictions clarification in catalog. If it's a FISH course, but the student is in ENVS, is that ok? GIS 385 is ok for ENVS students, but not geography because it's the same department. We need to think about what constitutes a supporting area and where the UG/GRAD level lines are. Historically, yield to the MP to determine if it's a needed support area for the study plan.
- d. Student admission approval request with supplemental materials provided: Applicant, MP and department request a 2nd PhD plan in Entomology to be allowed. The first degree was in Plant Virology at an International institution) Typically, students pursue a 2nd MS to add content course in interested area.
 - i. Committee member asks if it's like soil biology and getting a second in soil chemistry and whether that would be allowed.
 - ii. Committee questions the rationale behind a second PhD. Since the institution cannot award the same degree twice, more information is needed.
 - iii. One member says the two seem closely related, but not an expert in that area. Asks if we could get clarification on there.
 - iv. 9 faculty approved to table but invite department chair to explain differences.

Addendum: The department chair provided a detailed explanation, and a SPECIAL VOTE was held to expedite the decision for admission. With additional materials and justification from the major professor and the department administrator, the members approved the request for a second PhD. (8 approving and 3 abstaining)

- e. Change of practice for issuing I-20's to students on an assistantship
 - i. The I-20 for students on an assistantship will be issued with an initial date of 7 days prior to the official start of the semester. This will ensure that any employment related trainings and orientations scheduled before classes begin will comply with immigration and employment regulations.
 - ii. The new practice has been initiated by the IPO at the HR recommendation. Any training and orientation related to the graduate appointment/position are considered employment. Issuing the I-20 with an initial date of 7 days prior to the official start of the semester will accommodate the full range of activities students need to engage in before classes start.
 - iii. Dates on the acceptance letter and the departmental offer letter may need to align with the date on the I-20.

Important Note:

After the GC meeting, IPO determined that the start date on the acceptance letter does not need to match the I-20 – this will be addressed in the following remarks on the I-20: "This student has a paid assistantship that requires them to complete training in the week prior to first day of class."

If a start date is included in the offer letter, this will need to be prior to any orientations/trainings related to employment/orientations

IV. Old Business

- a. 4+1 Program approved by State Board. It holds tuition levels at undergrad level for the plus 1 year. Likely to be called Accelerated Masters--Non-thesis option.
 - i. Members talked about possible programs in their areas that could be adapted to fit the model.

- ii. Question: How much control would a program have to say how many credits the program should be if more than 30 credits? Answer: It would be up to MP.
 - iii. Guidelines: Six common credits between the UG and Grad programs are allowed. Also, students can reserve 6 credits (400 or 500 level) that will not be used for the UG requirements—course reservation form.
 - iv. Time sensitive: once UG is awarded, no credits can move.
 - v. Funding: Not eligible for TAs/assistantships, but the 1-year tuition incentive is in play.
 - vi. Members express concern about program capacity and how far they could support the growth in certain areas but mentioned they could suspend admission when they need to.
 - vii. Is a Waitlist option to push to a future semester possible? Would be considered on a case-by-case situation.
 - viii. Discussion about additional TA resources to cover increased course load, how to market it and if entering students should have a higher GPA requirement?
 - ix. Expedited Admission: no Letters of Rec. required since department recommends student for (intended to be) seamless program.
- b. I-thenticate subscription is available for plagiarism checks. Limited license so opening it to DGS or Dept. Chairs to control. Use should be limited to major items like journals and conference papers. R-1 institutions have it.
 - c. Invitation to judge 3MT competition: contact Stephanie.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:55