

**Graduate Council Minutes  
October 5, 2021  
Webex**

Present: Defne Apul, Wissam AbouAlaiwi, Brian Ashburner, Larissa Barclay, Sharon Barnes, Jonathan Bossenbroek, Frank Calzonetti, Saurabh Chattopadhyay, Madeline Clark, Heather Conti, James Ferris, Bashar Gammoh, David Giovannucci, Daniel Hammel, Mohamed Samir Hefzy, Marthe Howard, Ali Imami (GSA), Gary Insch, Ken Kilbert, John Laux, Abraham Lee, Linda Lewin, Michael Mallin, Bindu Menon, Kathleen Mitchell (for Martha Sexton) Geoffrey Rapp, Jeanine Refsnider, Patty Relue, Connie Schall, Beth Schlemper, Rebecca Schneider, Zahoor Shah, Ekaterina Shemyakova, Snejana Slantcheva-Durst, Ruslan Slutsky, Jami Taylor, Amy Thompson, Jerry Van Hoy, Kandace Williams.

Absent: None.

Excused: None.

Guests: Adam Bohland, Elissa Falcone, Teri Green, Timothy Mueser.

***Call to Order, Roll Call, and Approval of Minutes***

The meeting was called to order and the roll called.

***Executive Reports***

Report of the Executive Committee of the Graduate Council

On behalf of Graduate Council, Chair Dr. David Giovannucci, reported

- *GCEC meeting of September 28, 2021*
  - Enrollment and Communication on year-long registration and impact on curricular deadlines.
  - Future guests
    - Heather Huntley - HLC visit November 8-9, 2021.
    - Alana Malik - curricular course mapping.
    - Senior leadership to engage with GC – more to come. Will be advocating for that.
  - Standing Committees update. Most are fully populated. Still seeking graduate student members on the Graduate Student Affairs Committee.
  - Graduate Council Resolutions webpage
    - Terri Hayes-Lepiarz is working on coordinating and creating a webpage listing of all GC Resolutions.
  - GC Chair will attend President Postel's Investiture in processing representing Graduate Council, on Friday, October 8, 2021.

Report of the Vice Provost for Graduate Affairs and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies

Dr. Amy Thompson, Senior Vice Provost of Academic Affairs and Acting Dean, College of Graduate Studies provided the following updates:

- *Events*
  - Happy Homecoming Week October 4-9, 2021
  - President Postel's Investiture October 8, 2021
  
- *Fall 2021 Commencement – Friday, December 17, 2021 6 pm*

Commencement planning meetings are starting with three separate ceremonies planned to help with proper distancing. Ph.D and all graduate students commencement ceremony on Friday, December 17 at 6 pm in Savage Arena. Speaker (virtual) is Dr. Kelly McCormick Brown, a UToledo alumna with two degrees from the College of Health and Human Services and an associate degree from Owens Community College. She is currently the Chancellor at Western Carolina University, Undergraduate commencement will be held on Saturday, December 18, 2021 at 9 am and 1 pm with the speaker to be determined.
  
- *Graduate Enrollment and Student Success subcommittee*

Kickoff meeting for the Graduate Enrollment and Student Success subcommittee will be October 6, 2021 at 12 noon. UToledo has seen a 20% decrease in graduate enrollment since 2012 with the majority occurring in the past five years. The subcommittee will begin to look at enrollment strategies. Related to this is test optional that has been discussed previously. More universities are doing this. I asked Adam Bohland, who led the SAST removal initiative at the undergraduate level, to look at test barriers to graduate education: 25% of our programs require GRE or GMAT type of exams, another 25% require a hybrid, are GPA based or waiver eligibility.
  
- *Slate implementation update*

As progress on development of our new graduate admissions system moves forward, Adam Bohland will give a presentation/update on SLATE implementation (our new CRM system). This should be a game changer for graduate admissions. We have partnered with Underscore to implement quickly. It has already been implemented at the undergraduate level. Graduate program contacts can expect a communication from Adam today seeking feedback on how to improve the current process. The current process is not the most student-centered, so we're working diligently to develop a synopsis of its functions, that will replace our application, workflow process, and communications with applicants and program directors, for a system that is the most student-centered possible. This implementation is led by three captains across campus – Adam Bohland in COGS, Elissa Falcone in the Provost's Office and Julie Quinonez, Registrar. We are building most student centered process possible. UToledo and Kent State are some of the last Ohio institutions to switch. It is effective and has reversed recruitment trends at other institutions.
  
- *COVID-19 Vaccination incentive*

The last day to draw prizes is tomorrow, October 6, 2021. One lucky student and one staff member received a \$2,000 pre-paid visa and the opportunity to ride in the upcoming homecoming parade! To date we have seen a 47.6% vaccine upload. October 15 is the deadline for the first vaccination or to apply for an exemption. Flu shots have begun and are available on both campuses and at the UT Main Campus pharmacy. There is a new policy flu policy for those not covered under various collective bargaining units.

### Report of the Vice President for Research

Dr. Frank Calzonetti reported:

○ *Staffing Update*

Loss of critical staff members, 3 in grants coordinators. Eva English moved to help get grant proposals out the door. We recently received approval to hire one grants coordinator soon and hope to make progress on another position shortly after. This is a busy time of year with a lot of NIH and NSF deadlines and our first priority is making sure that proposals are completed and submitted. Animal Care group is down three staff. It is very difficult to hire people right now. These positions have been open for a while. These areas require a lot of compliance and we are working through this. Please understand that the ORSP is working as hard as it can.

○ *Research Council*

The Research Council looked at three policies for minor revisions IACUC, IRB and IBC, to allow retired faculty members who are still active in their labs, to be approved to submit protocols.

○ *Controlled substances and dangerous drugs*

Elaine Joseph has been working on controlled substances and dangerous drugs becoming. DEA is very serious about doing inspections. We have created a training video on our website. Moving toward mandating training for those using controlled substances and dangerous drugs. Take a look at the videos. A number of you have had visits from the DEA and we have been able to respond positively.

*Discussion:*

Chair Giovannucci asked for brief update regarding deadlines for internal grants programs.

Dr. Calzonetti responded that the deadline is in two weeks. January deadline for DeArce and Summer Fellowship application deadline is January 20, 2022. URFO deadlines for the large grant opportunities letters of intent is October 18, 2021. The deadline for submission of full proposals if invited is January 20, 2022. He pointed out that letters of intent for the \$50K programs is a two-stage process that is reviewed by Research Council who invite those best aligned with the program to go out for external review.

Dr. Samir Hefzy asked if letters of intent are required for DeArce?

Dr. Calzonetti replied no.

### Report of the Graduate Student Association

Dr. Ali Imami, President of the Graduate Student Association (GSA) gave the following brief update.

We have at least one representative from each college to reach entire graduate student body. Migrating entirety set up to *Invonet* to make sure it is manageable as the University is promoting use of this platform for student organizations.

Chair Giovannucci encouraged Ali Imami to work with Dr. AbouAlaiwi to populate GC standing committees as graduate student participation is valuable.

***Information and Discussion Items***

University Evaluation of Faculty Qualifications (Policy Number: 3364-72-11)

Chair Giovannucci stated the draft policy with revisions was distributed prior to today's meeting and that Council was encouraged to read and provide feedback. Graduate faculty teaching and mentoring our graduate students are required to have appropriate qualifications.

I will be asking our Membership Committee to do a thorough review of this policy and suggest any changes to this policy so that it is in alignment with our membership requirements. Any comments or concerns should be sent to the GCEC. We will then provide all feedback to Dr. Thompson.

Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty (Policy 3364-77-01)

Chair Giovannucci reminded Council that Dr. Mike Dowd was working on this policy. He had requested for two additional committee members from GC to hone into a format that readily comports with our policy format and then refer to an operating procedure. He sought volunteers. Dr. Geoffrey Rapp, Law and Dr. Patty Relue, Engineering, self-nominated. Dr. Giovannucci will inform Dr. Dowd.

Pending Legislation on Teaching Divisive Content

Diane Miller sends government initiatives and policies. Recently, there was one was from Ohio State government and the other involves COVID-19 vaccinations – and perhaps Dr. Thompson could address that topic briefly.

- Teaching of Divisive Content

And other on pending legislation teaching of divisive content, which would restrict what topics could be taught at public institutions as it relates to what are legitimate scholarly endeavors such as critical race theory or deemed divisive. It is censorship. I wanted to bring to your attention if you haven't already seen this. As residents of the State of Ohio, you can express your thoughts and concerns to the elected representatives.

- COVID-19 Vaccinations

Numerous bills have been introduced that would ban institutions from requiring COVID vaccine. A recent bill allowed for certain provisions in requiring a vaccine, which requires you allow for medical and religious exemptions, which we do. The third provision was allowing for an equivalent antibody test that would show the someone had the same as if they had received a vaccine. We have no way to do that. We cannot measure that a person has the same antibodies as someone who has the vaccine. Nor do we have a way to enforce that. We will see how all this evolves.

*Discussion:*

Chair Giovannucci commented that the Policy Number 3364-72-11 University Evaluation of Faculty Qualifications under review is a modification of an existing policy.

(F) Equivalent Experience

For faculty holding less than a master's degree and teaching in undergraduate programs or less than a terminal degree and teaching in graduate programs, the University defines the minimum threshold for equivalent experience as [having 18 additional baccalaureate credit hours in the discipline they will be teaching or](#) five years of experience or demonstrated skills in the same area in which the potential instructor of record will be teaching. Credentials will be the primary determinant of minimal instructional qualifications but equivalent experience (having a breadth and depth of experience outside the classroom, in real-world relevant situations to what the faculty is teaching) and/or industry credentials are other possible determinants.

(G) Procedure.

The evaluative procedure for the instructors of record with [additional baccalaureate credit hour verification or](#) equivalent experience (tested experience)

It is not clear how, what appears to be new language that the University requiring 18 post-baccalaureate hours, impacts Graduate Faculty Membership. He would like the rationale and reasons for the changes as it involves the Membership Committee's review of applications for that membership and should involve their input.

This HLC requirement should be clarified whether it applies to all faculty, undergraduate or graduate. And if there is a separate policy for each.

Since the policy responsible agent is the Provost's Office, Dean Thompson will get clarity and report back.

Dr. Connie Schall also noted that if this affects graduate faculty membership, it will need to be noted in the GC Bylaws.

Chair Giovannucci stated that this current topic underscores the need for the Constitution and Bylaws Committee to review and update our guiding documents as things change over time.

***Standing Committee Reports***

**Report of the Curriculum Committee**

On behalf of the Membership Committee, Chair, Dr. Tim Mueser presented the committee's reports, both for Graduate Council review/approval and report to GCEC for GC informational purposes. The report is coming from committee so a motion is not needed. Vote via Chat function in Webex either Yes/No/Abstain. Council unanimously approved the report for its vote. See comments and one correction below.

<b>Proposals Approved by GCCC</b>					
4	CCR	MD	Phys, Phrmcol, Metab, Card Sci	Seminars in Molecular Medicine	MOME 6300
5	CCR	HH	School of Exercise and Rehab Science	Clinical Education Experience IV	PHYT 7900
6	CCR	HH	School of Exercise and Rehab Science	Administration In Recreational Therapy	RCRT 4330
7	CCR	HH	School of Exercise and Rehab Science	Leisure, Recreation, And Aging in Recreational Therapy Practice	RCRT 4340
8	CCR	HH	School of Exercise and Rehab Science	RT Clinical: Intellectual Deficits / Developmental Disability	RCRT 5820
9	CCR	HH	School of Intervention and Wellness	SLP Concomitant Project	SLP 6920
10	CCR	HH	School of Social Justice	Social Work Research Methods And Analysis	SOCW 5010
11	CCR	MD	Phys, Phrmcol, Metab, Card Sci	Journal Paper Review in Molecular Medicine	MOME 6600
12	CCR	MD	Phys, Phrmcol, Metab, Card Sc	Advanced Topics in Molecular Medicine	MOME 6500
13	PCR	MD	Bioinformation and Proteom-Genomics	Bioinformatics Biomarkers, Certificate	MD-BIBI-CRG

*Report to Graduate Council for vote*

<b>Proposals requiring GC Approval</b>					
<del>1</del>	<del>NCP</del>	<del>EN</del>	<del>Mechanical, Industrial, and Manufacturing Engineerin</del>	<del>Advanced Computational Fluid Dynamics</del>	<del>MIME 6890</del>
2	NCP	MD	Phys, Phrmcol, Metab, Card Sci	Qualifying Exam to Fellowship	BMSP 8240
3	NCP	MD	Phys, Phrmcol, Metab, Card Sci	Strategic Approaches to Biomedical Research	BMSP 6010

Dr. Relue noted a correction that MIME 6890 is not a special topics course and was erroneously entered twice. She will delete the duplicate in CIM.

Proposals #2 and #3 from the College of Medicine and Life Sciences are associated with training grant, not in a program, so a program modification is not needed.

Council approved unanimously.

Report of the Membership Committee

None.

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

None.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Council adjourned at 1:37 pm.