Minutes of the Graduate Academic Council meeting of November 4, 2020, 8:30 AM via Zoom meeting.

Approved by the Council by vote of 10-0-0 on December 2, 2020

In attendance: G. Berg (Chair), S. Appe, D. Card, A. Dawson, A. Gill, S. Faught, O. Lunin, R. Morse, E. Pacer, K.N. Stanwicks, C. Wolff, K. Williams (ex officio member), C. Davis (staff), S. Kent (staff), J. Deden (staff)

Guests: Zina Lawrence – Assistant Dean, Director, Full-time MBA program, School of Business
Rachel French – Assistant Registrar, Registrar's Office
Sean Pease – Assistant Director of Graduate Admissions Services, Graduate School

1. This GAC Agenda approved with no changes.

2. Minutes of the GAC meeting of October 7,2020 approved by a vote of 10-0-0.

3. GAC's Committee on Curriculum & Instruction (CC&I) and Committee on Admissions & Academic Standing (CA&AS) are now fully staffed.

4. Dean's Report – Kevin Williams commented on the continued Covid pooled testing as students prepare to return home. Graduate 'arranged' courses are considered 'in-person' courses and faculty and students must participate in the pooled testing. A waiver process was created for those students that are not coming to campus (through the Dean of Students Office).

    Increases in academic dishonesty at the undergrad level are startling. Faculty have expressed concerns (students are accessing a website called Chegg where they can share answers). In response, the university rolled out Respondus (system that operates through Blackboard); it locks down the internet browser, and also has optional video component. Intent is to use it as pilot this semester and roll out fully next semester. Undergrads have reacted negatively to this; Student Association (SA) has submitted a resolution against it (concern of malware [ITS addressed this] and privacy). SA has sent the resolution to the Graduate Student Association (GSA); have not heard yet from GSA. Respondus is available for all faculty to use. There have been no increases in Violation of Academic Integrity Reports on the graduate level as of yet. In person proctoring has been offered (for on campus students); or proctor via Zoom. Students could still access their phones; video through Respondus would help with this but it's optional.

    Spring 2021 semester update incudes academic calendar changes to assist with safety and mental wellness.

5. Chair's Report – George Berg added to the Dean's comments that assistance with Respondus and academic dishonesty can be had by contacting Billie Franchini from ITLAL.
    The recently approved Environmental and Sustainable Engineering programs received some opposition in the Senate Executive Committee involving non-academic resources. He recommends more consistency in the enrollment projections outlined in program proposals.

6. Committee on Curriculum and Instruction report – CC & I Chair Sydney Faught reviewed the report and fielded questions. The GAC voted to accept the Committee's report 11-0-0.

7. Graduate Grading Policy for Independent Learning – C. Davis reviewed the changes in the Graduate Bulletin's language regarding 'seminar' courses and their grading. The word "seminar" was removed from the course listing in this policy.

   There was a question regarding the inclusion of Grade Point Average (GPA) language in the Graduate Bulletin. Currently, there is no language indicating that GPAs are not calculated at the graduate level. Colleen and Kevin will discuss and return to GAC with suggested language.

8. No other business.
   Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 am approved.

Next GAC meeting for Fall 2020: Friday, 12/2/20, 8:30AM, via Zoom

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University at Albany, SUNY
Graduate Academic Council 2020-21 - Membership Roster (as of 11/4/20)

Gill, Andrew – GSA – Philosophy, CAS
Card, Dylan – GSA – Atmospheric Science, CAS
Pacer, Emily – GSA – Environmental Health Science, Public Health
Dawson, Alec – TF – History, CAS
Lunin, Oleg – TF – Physics, CAS
Stanwicks, Kabel – TF – University Libraries
Morse, Randy – TF – Public Health
Wolff, Christopher – TF – Anthropology, CAS
Appe, Susan – TF - Rockefeller
Berg, George (GAC Chair) – TF – CEHC
Ferraino, Michelle – SA – Human Development BS
Faught, Sydney – PF – Registrar's Office
Williams, Kevin (ex officio) – Dean, Graduate School

Davis, Colleen – staff – Graduate School
Kent, Shanise – staff – Graduate School
Deden, Julie – staff – Graduate School

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GAC Committee on Curriculum & Instruction (CC&I)
Assistant Graduate School Dean Colleen Davis, staff

Susan Appe	Teaching Faculty	Public Administration & Policy	GAC Member
Sydney Faught **	Professional Staff	Registrar's Office	GAC Member
Dylan Card	PhD Student	Earth & Atmospheric Science	GAC Member
Andrew Gill	PhD Student	Philosophy	GAC Member
Stephen Weinberg	Teaching Faculty	Public Administration & Policy	Returning Volunteer
Haijun Chen	Teaching Faculty	Biology	Returning Volunteer
Jeannette Sutton	Teaching Faculty	CEHC	New Volunteer

| Ilka Kressner | Teaching Faculty | Spanish | New Volunteer |

GAC Committee on Admissions & Academic Standing (CA&AS)
Assistant Graduate School Dean Shanise Kent, staff

Oleg Lunin	Teaching Faculty	Physics	GAC Member
Kabel Stanwicks **	Teaching Faculty	University Libraries	GAC Member
Emily Pacer	PhD Student	Environmental Health Sciences	GAC Member
Chris Wolff	Teaching Faculty	Anthropology	GAC Member
Alec Dawson	Teaching Faculty	History	GAC Member
Sylvia Roch	Teaching Faculty	Psychology	Returning Volunteer
Ryan Torn	Teaching Faculty	ATM	Returning Volunteer
J. Ramon Gil-Garcia	Teaching Faculty	Public Admin	Returning Volunteer

** Chair

Curriculum and Instruction Committee

October 19, 2020, via Zoom

Committee Members: Sydney Faught (chair), Susan Appe, Dylan Card, Haijun Chen, Andrew Gill, Ilka Kressner, Jeannette Sutton, Stephen Weinberg,

Staff: Colleen Davis

Proposals reviewed: Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino Studies CGS Program Proposal, Art (Studio) MFA Program Proposal

Latin American, Caribbean, and US Latino Studies CGS Program Proposal

The Latin American, Caribbean, and US Latino Studies Department is proposing the following changes to the CGS program (all concentrations):

- Change program name to Latin American, Caribbean and Latina/o/x Studies (the current title privileges the masculine designation of Latino; the department wants to make the title inclusive)
- Increase the overall credits from 12 to 15 graduate credits
- Add ALCS506 Latina/o Studies Seminar (3 credits)
- Justification: current curriculum does not provide the student with comprehensive knowledge of the interdisciplinary field of studies; it excludes one of the three geographical regions. The change proposed not only more equitably highlights the three distinct fields with which the department engages (Latin American, Caribbean, and Latina/o Studies), but also allows CGS students to consider the transnational framework that brings these three fields together under the LACS umbrella. This course addition more closely aligns the program with Latin American certificate programs at peer institutions (UC Santa Cruz).

This is a carry-over proposals from last year. Questions were asked of the department and were answered. Based on the department's justification above, the committee voted to approve the proposed program changes (8 approve, 0 disapprove, 0 abstain).

Art (Studio) MFA Program Proposal

The Art Department is proposing the following changes to the Art (Studio) MFA program:

- Increase the Art History requirement from 7 credits to 8 credits.
- Add AARH569 Art Criticism and Theory after 2000 (4 credits) to the Art History requirement (previously the requirement is listed as AARH600 and three credits of AARH at the 500 level or above). The new requirement will be: Art History – AARH600 (4 credits) and AARH569 (4 credits)
- Decrease the general elective requirement from 5 to 4 credits, to account for the increase in Art History credits required.
- Overall credits will remain as 60 credits.
- This new course adds the area of art criticism to the curricular requirements, with an emphasis on art writing.

Based on the department's justification above, the committee voted to approve the proposed program changes (8 approve, 0 disapprove, 0 abstain).