

Minutes of the Graduate Academic Council meeting of January 11, 2021, 12:00 PM via Zoom meeting.

Approved by the Council by vote of 10-0-0 on 2/8/2021.

In attendance: G. Berg (Chair), S. Appe, A. Dawson, S. Faught, M. Ferraino, A. Gill, 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
Melissa Powers – Associate Registrar, Registrar's Office

1. GAC Agenda for today's meeting approved.
2. The minutes of the GAC meeting of 12/2/2020 were approved by a vote of 11-0-0.
3. Dean's Report – Dean Williams reviewed academic continuity updates of COVID-19 arrangements. Fall 2020 went acceptably, with the Grad School receiving less complaints of the quality of education than the undergraduate side. Spring 2021 enrollment is the same as last year and number of continuing students is higher than last year. Retention will be watched. Planning is ongoing for going back to full in-person course delivery for the Fall 2021 semester. Registration for the Fall 2021 semester starts later this year, roughly around April 1, 2021. Reminder of this year's 3 Minute Thesis event.
4. Chair's Report – Chair Berg shared relevant highlights from the recent Senate Executive Committee meeting. Provost Kim attended the SEC and the current budget reduction situation was outlined. All units are affected. Town Halls are scheduled. Chair Berg will continue to disperse information to GAC members as he receives it.
5. Committee on Curriculum and Instruction Report (CC & I) –
Atmospheric Science MS and PhD Program Proposal to remove admissions requirement of GRE.
Industrial and Organizational Psychology MA Program changes.
S. Faught gave the review of the latest CC & I report. Discussion followed on GRE requirements and the reasoning for Atmospheric & Environmental Science's request not to require GRE for their admissions.
No questions raised on the I/O Psychology MA program changes.
The GAC voted to accept the CC & I report by a vote of 11-0-0
6. Biology MS, PhD, and Forensic Biology MS Distance Education Proposals – C. Davis explained that normally this would go to the CC & I first, but the extension for distance education format is ending as of Spring 2021. Programs who plan on continuing to offer online courses will want to apply for distance education formatting quickly. C. Davis fielded questions from the counsel on the proposal. If Distance learning is on the program's record as an approved mode, it does not mean that a department has to offer courses that way. It provide flexibility for possible future changes. Biological Sciences department wants to add the Distance Learning option to their three programs. The GAC voted to approve the proposal by a vote of 11-0-0

Meeting adjourned without opposition at 11:40 AM.

CCI Report

Meeting via Zoom 12/21/2020 9am

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

Staff: Colleen Davis

Program Proposals Reviewed: Atmospheric Science MS and PhD Program, Industrial and Organizational Psychology MA Program

Atmospheric Science MS and PhD Program Proposal – Removal of GRE

The Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences is requesting the removal of the GREs as an admission requirement. They indicate there is a current trend in removing the GREs in graduate programs in meteorology, climate, and geosciences. GRE scores may still be provided by applicants as auxiliary information and they will still be considered by the department's graduate recruitment committee members in their holistic review process. Prospective students can still submit their GRE scores if they believe the scores will enhance their application. The department considers the following in their admissions review: journal publications, products from research activities, presentations at conferences/workshops, created web page content, computer code, data visualization dashboards, teaching material from tutoring activities, scientific outreach materials. Submitting the GREs will not disadvantage applicants; the committee evaluates all mandatory application materials from all applicants, and reviews and considers any relevant supplementary information provided. It is a holistic review, and a lack of supplementary material does not discount an application in any way.

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

Industrial and Organizational Psychology MA Program

The Department of Psychology is proposing the following changes to the Industrial and Organizational Psychology MA Program:

- Add the grading requirement of B- or better in the core courses. Students must retake the courses if they obtain less than a B-.
- Add APSY760 (Workplace Diversity and Discrimination) to the list of approved seminar courses. No changes to the current list other than adding this course as an option.

- Adding the option of repeating APSY756 (Practicum in Organizational Research) towards the 6 credit Thesis/Practicum requirement. Students can currently take this course towards this requirement; the department is allowing students to take it twice towards this requirement now.

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