

## Minutes of the Graduate Council (GC)

*October 16, 2018 from 9:30-11:00am in the Maryland Room*

Attendance: Steve Fetter, Neil Gupta, Chris Hanson, Gang Qu, Ann Weeks, Jeff Franke, Ryan Long, Ashwani Tambe, Binbin Peng, Liana Sayer, Michael Dougherty, Min Xie, June Lyons (for Annie R), Larry Washington, Jessica Fernandez, Wayne Slater, Keven Mclver, Steve Roth, Sheung Lu, Jeffery Klauda, Marty Rabenhorst.

- I. Welcome
  - a. Dean Fetter welcomed councilors and started the meeting at 9:35am.
  - b. Overview of Expectation meeting and survey results:
    - i. This is the first semester that the expectation meeting requirement was implemented. The survey sent to all GA's and we received about 1200 responses. Of those who had a meeting said it was worthwhile. Comments from students suggested that while it was good to have a meeting, but those who have been a GA for several years, it was not necessarily needed because they already knew their responsibilities. To view the report regarding the survey results, please go [here](#).
- II. Approval of the minutes for September 13, 2018 meeting
  - a. The minutes for the September 13, 2018 meeting were approved with no changes.

### III. Proposed Graduate Policy Changes

- a. Defense remote participation:

Multiple remote participants are allowed, but the Dean's representative, chair and candidate must all be present in the same location. Concern raised regarding technology issues and what happens if the technology fails. It is the Dean's representative's responsibility. Dean's Rep responsibility to determine how long to wait, timing and rescheduling decisions. Grad School will prepare a fact sheet to go along with the policy that speaks to rooms available, software to use, hi speed WiFi, etc

Remote participation will be approved on a case by case basis. There is flexibility when determining the room and the technology used for remote participation. When the defense starts, the Dean's Rep is the judge – if everyone can see and hear each other then it's good.

There is some concern that the use of remote participation will become too frequent. We added the word "compelling" in the policy so that it is understood that there has to be a good reason for remote participation. The standard is still an in-person defense.

In the end, all remote participation needs to be approved by the GS in advance. The GS approval process will help to be sure the policy is not overused.

Grad School will prepare a Dean's Rep Checklist.

All remote participation needs to be approved in advance.

Policy Approved by Graduate Council, 9:53 am

b. 898/899 Credits

- a. Current policy - 12 semester hours of 899 and 6 months must lapse after candidacy. Problems with both of these have occurred. Why do we need the 6 months? Proposed changes on slide.
- b. Proposed Policy- Eliminate the 6 months. 898 can only be used for pre-candidacy research. Some Departments use it for other purposes.
- c. Programs can make additional requirements so that candidacy is reached by a certain time? This policy outlines administrative requirements, but programs can require their students to reach candidacy by a certain time. This policy is trying to accommodate the different practices done on campus. Programs can make the policy strict.
- d. Policy Approved by Graduate Council. The full policy can be found here: <https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/policies/doctoral-degrees-policies/>

IV. Discussion Topics

- a. Professional Doctorate: (Steve Roth). We have always dealt with this by making exceptions to the PhD process. It would be more useful to have policy in place for a professional doctorate process. Ed.D., D.M.A., and Au.D. currently, but other colleges are considering adding a professional doctorate. The working group had 4 major recommendations. It follows the PhD progression with coursework and practice leading to candidacy and culminating in a doctoral capstone project. The exact requirements would need to be determined by each program. Most programs result in a form of licensure and if not, are subject to disciplinary accreditation.

One of the issues to be resolved is who qualifies to serve and chair the capstone committees. Graduate Faculty Associate Members – should be allowed to serve as chairs for the Capstone. It would have to be Associate Members who have a full time association with the GS. This would not imply tenured faculty. Often, these are faculty who are outside of tenure tenure-track category. Currently, this kind of thing already happens when an exception is granted by the Dean of GS.

Professional doctorate is different than the current PhD. Most do not have a research component. It's more of an application of their expertise.

Concern was raised about how tenured tenure track faculty are not involved and therefore would lower our standards. Our current Prof track programs are

operating as parallel programs to the PhD programs. All faculty (tenured and non-tenured) are contributing to the advancement of the student. PCC process has been and will be critical in the development of Prof doctoral programs, and will make sure that the program fits the accreditation standards at UMD, Equivalence to PhD - Capstone program – course code 829 – 5 member committee. Minimum of 6 credits associate with capstone project. Policy will be prepared for future discussion at Graduate Council

V. New Business

- a. Graduate Student mental health presentation: From a policy standpoint, mental health and overall wellbeing needs to be addressed.
- b. Jeff went through slides – historical information about the problem, what’s on our campus, and what do we need to do.
  - Map the campus
  - Create a climate of awareness and support: recognizing issues
  - Create peer networks: writing groups, support groups, book clubs
  - Improve student care: access and affordability. Sensitive to overworking students, work/life balance. Is LOA really the best answer?
  - Develop and monitor intervention indicators: getting help before it becomes a problem. Ability to monitor wellbeing – recognize indicators of potential issues.

Not much data about graduate students’ mental health. Several councilors asked question such as:

- Are students coming in with risk factors? Our selection criteria may invite this kind of student. The things we look for in graduate students may be the same traits that make them susceptible to mental health issues.
- Has this problem worsened overtime? or has it always been a problem in graduate school?
- Maybe program staff may have a better sense of recognizing a student issue before an advisor? We need to have program wide and campus wide awareness.

Jessica Fernandez – offered to bring back data

VI. Adjourn

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00am.