



## Graduate Council Meeting Notes

March 13, 2024

10:00 - 11:30 am

Zoom

**Attendees:** Steven Mount, Evelyn King, Jose Aranda-Espinoza, Matthew Nesson, Christina Marisa Getrich, David Van Horn, Janet Walkoe, Paulo Prochno, Lucy Qiu, Souradip Chakraborty, Leila De Floriani, Hiro Iseki, Alexander Williams, Chris Ellis, Autumn Perkey, Henry Patrick Gittens, Jillian Rothschild (15 voting members, 2 non-voting members)

**GS Staff:** Sparkle Lonesome, Robyn Kotzker, Steve Roth, Evelyn Cooper, Fan Tsao, Jason Farman, Toyin Oguntolu, Patty Woodwell, Heather Kissinger, Vikash Gujju, Linda Macri, Teddy Wu, Waqeelat Gaji, Brent Hernandez, Kate Oravec

### AGENDA NOTES

1. Approval of [February meeting minutes](#)
  - a. Approved with no recommended changes.
2. Welcome and announcements
  - a. Open Forums
    - March 14, 3p ([Zoom only](#) - \*[umd.edu](mailto:umd.edu) email required to join\*): **Master's Students (co-hosted with Extended Studies)**. Master's students, particularly those in professional programs or those working full time while completing their degree program, are the focus of this session so we can better understand how we can improve the experience of these students, who are often on campus for a short period of time.
    - April 22, 1p (ESJ 0201, and Zoom): **International Graduate Students (co-hosted with the Office of International Affairs)**. International graduate students have a variety of unique issues that affect their student experience. Representatives from OIA, ISSS, and other international affairs offices will join this session to answer questions and hear your thoughts about improving the international graduate student experience.
    - April 30, 3p (ESJ 2204, and Zoom): **Graduate Student Housing (co-hosted with Division of Administration and Division of Student Affairs)**. Graduate student housing is a major concern for some of our students. This forum will provide an update on a new graduate housing project that will double UMD's graduate housing capacity in fall 2026, allow discussion about current graduate housing, and elicit feedback on a possible living-learning community idea for graduate students.
  - b. Graduate School Strategic Plan



- The Graduate School is moving forward with our strategic plan, and Jason Farman is taking the lead.
- We have been engaging with the campus strategic plan and internal stakeholders, and will soon be getting feedback from the Graduate Council, DGS/CGS, etc.
- We want to make sure our actions align with the campus strategic plan. We appreciate your feedback on any activities we should be prioritizing over the next 5 years.
- We will follow-up about this during our next Graduate Council meeting, and will seek feedback about the role of the Graduate School on campus and what to focus on during the next 5 years. We want feedback on how we can level our presence on campus to better the graduate student experience.

### 3. Proposed policy discussions

- a. [Time limitations](#): shift candidacy language to start of matriculation
  - This policy is for doctoral students. We've made a minor adjustment to the language, as we had some DGS asking about when the clock officially starts on candidacy (at time of admission or time of starting the program of study). We've clarified this with switching "admission" to "matriculation".
  - Comment: Hiro Iseki - I understand that the clock starts in August for most students. Does this mean students need to pass the qualifying exam by the summer of their fifth year? We need to process the paperwork, which might be done closer to the fall.
    1. Response: Fan Tsao - The advancement to candidacy has to be processed by the Registrar within 5 years of entry to the program. Paperwork should be done well in advance so that the Registrar can process this.
  - Comment: Autumn Perkey - I was told that paperwork needs to be done by July 25th for August advancement. How would the availability of faculty over the summer play a role here?
    1. Yes, paperwork always needs to be done by the 25th of the month before the advancement month (for example, July 25th for August advancement).
    2. We can circle back to DGS/CGS for what availability looks like during the summer.
  - Comment: Toyin Oguntolu - Advancement to candidacy can occur before 5 years. Requirements can be sent in to be processed for the following month, however, registration for 899 will not happen until the fall.
- b. Adjust "[Foreign Language Requirement](#)" to "World Language Requirement"
  - The campus as a whole is moving away from "foreign language", and we are following this as well.



- There is no change in policy, just a shifting of the wording.
  - c. [Time away from Duties](#) language update
    - We switched language, removing “ten workdays” of time away for GAs, and keeping “40 hours”. There is no change in the total amount of time away.
    - We also switched language from “academic year” to “calendar year”.
  - d. [Advancement to Candidacy](#) and Mid-Program Evaluation - Forms Handled by Registrar
    - Language is updated to say that the forms for advancing to candidacy are handled by the Registrar now, and not the Graduate School.
  - e. [Approval of Committee](#) - Handled by Registrar
    - This form is also now handled by the Registrar.
    - Comment: Toyin Oguntolu - Retroactive candidacy will still be handled by the Graduate School.
4. Future Discussion
- a. Online Professional Doctoral Programs
    - We are starting to hear from some programs on campus about some interest in online professional doctoral programs. These are course-heavy, entrepreneurship-like with a capstone and mid-program evaluation.
    - We wanted to hear thoughts from the Graduate Council, as we don’t offer any online undergraduate degrees (except for one) and online doctoral degrees.
    - The mode of delivery is also something to consider here, as there is some chat around a completely asynchronous degree.
    - Comment: Matthew Nesson - We currently have two professional doctoral programs at the College of Education. Both are hybrid, but skewed more towards online. A couple of courses meet in-person at Shady Grove.
    - Comment: Christina Getrich - I’m in the Department of Anthropology, and we launched an online Master’s program. It has been incredibly successful. However, I am not in the best position to talk about if this would be a good template for an online doctoral program. I think the directors of these programs may be best to talk to, as they know the nuts and bolts of how things run.
      1. Dean Roth and Jason Farman can collaborate and bring in the people proposing these programs.
    - Comment: Dean Roth - We will be meeting with the Provost soon as well to get a sense of thoughts on this.
    - Comment: Autumn Perkey - I love how we are thinking of innovation and thinking of the future. Is the point of the online doctoral programs to make money, or to train students? I know that I wouldn’t be successful if I wasn’t in-person at College Park, due to networking and internships being in-person. If you look at the graduate certificates, these are asynchronous as those taking



these are already professionals in the field. Who are we aiming to target for these programs?

1. This is a great point for us to dwell on. We have to think about the overlap between a financial model and an entrepreneurship degree.
  2. Another element of this discussion was the traditional model around knowledge generation. We are debating things in-person, and the impact of an asynchronous model on the exchange of diverse ideas.
- Comment: Christina Getrich - With regards to DEI goals, tribal communities have benefited most as those that wouldn't have been able to participate in these programs. It's good to think about groups that would be able to now have accessibility, and how this helps with the DEI initiative.
  - Comment: Jason Farman - There is an element of concern if doctoral programs have no in-state students. This would only become a problem if the program was very large and had a significant amount of students out-of-state.
  - Comment: Matthew Nesson - Betsy Beise is the best person to speak to this about. At one point, these programs resulted in a pay increase for teachers. Some had no ambition to teach, and it really was just to get a pay increase. But why not have both, as students have varying reasons for getting the degree.
    1. We have 5 professional doctorate programs on campus. A few years ago, the Graduate School built out policy that runs parallel with Ph.D. programs. Professional doctorates are recognized as a distinct category, and seem to be a growing category of degrees nationally.
- b. Immigrant origin students - President's Fellowships; etc.
- Comment: Christina Getrich - I am thinking about the strategic plan and moving forward. I appreciate the attention to international students. My research and advocacy is focused on immigrant origins, and thinking about their own unique challenges. The President's Fellowship is only for U.S. citizens.
  - Comment: Dean Roth - I had a meeting with the UndocuTerp group about undocumented students and the HR challenges around this. I know there are some particular legal reasons on why we can't offer some fellowships to these students.