

GRADUATE COUNCIL
Minutes
Thursday, September 24, 2020, 3:30 PM

A recording of this meeting can be found here:

https://uncw.zoom.us/rec/share/knXzbdyscFE_obo1UX_Ou46FyLSAUWXV8jMJxkLnXOavPNqBBYhTRUv6Qsb7wAKY.Kt9iXm9MMPy51IGA

Council members attending: Drs. Cox, Sweeney, Turrisi, Williard, Hawkes, Nooner, Shefsiek, Pursuit, McClure, Hunt, Sackley, Pappamihel and Bolton. Dean Finelli presided.

Ex-officio members attending: Samantha Bush (GSA rep) and Angela Housand (WCE).

Graduate School Staff attending: Linda Byrnes, Kimberly Harris and Nancy Holland

I. Announcements

Dean Finelli announced Committee assignments, see PP meeting slides.

II. Old Business

- a. Double counting policy, dual degree programs, microcredentials and stacking; Dr. Finelli discussed the growing popularity of certificates and other types of credentials. Policy committee charged with developing ideas for managing these types of programs.
- b. Policy committee to also bring back recommendations on retention policy, withdrawal grades (limits and extenuating circumstances), leave of absences and double counting of courses in dual degree programs (with no more than 1/3 of total program credits allowed). See PP slides.
- c. Dean Finelli led a discussion of Grad Council 2020-2021 priorities

III. New Business

- a. New Certificate Program in Dual Language Teaching; Eleni Pappamihel presented new certificate program in conjunction with UNCC through UNC Online. Discussed transfer credits online and policy; Eleni will draft an MOU for future meeting. Resources from library were questioned on availability here at UNCW, there be online materials provided from UNCC for joint proposal.
- b. Foreign language exam policy; Policy committee will bring back their recommendation to a future meeting.

Admissions – International Students

International students must present evidence of their ability to speak, read, and write the English language and to meet fully the financial obligations associated with their study at the University. Students from foreign countries where English is not the primary language or that did not earn their baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited US institution, must present the results of the TOEFL examination (Test of English as a Foreign Language), IELTS (International English Language Testing System), or

Duolingo English Test as a part of their application for admission. TOEFL, IELTS, and Duolingo scores are valid for two years from the date the test is administered. A minimum score of 550 on the TOEFL paper test, 79 on the Internet-based test (TOEFL iBT), 6.5 on the IELTS, or 100 on the Duolingo English Test is required for admission. Please note that satisfactory performance on one of these tests is a requirement for admission but does not guarantee acceptance to the university. A financial responsibility statement must also be submitted.

In addition to the TOEFL, international applicants who do not speak English as a primary language and who wish to become teaching assistants are required to demonstrate competence in oral communication skills if the teaching assistantship involves classroom instruction, laboratory instruction, or tutoring. A minimum score of 45 on the Test of Spoken English (TSE) or a minimum of 25 on the speaking section of the TOEFL iBT or a comparable score on an equivalent test is required to be eligible for an instructional assignment. Minimum score criteria may be higher for some graduate programs.

- c. Discussion on the AY 20-21 Scholarship process; Documentation on need-based scholarships need to have a diversity component added to align with existing agreement (from 2007) establishing the fund. All donor funded scholarships administered by the Graduate School will use Next-Gen system for applications and administration per Internal Audit review. Policy committee to review for transparency as well. Consideration should be given for departments to holdback funds for spring admits.

IV. Other

V. Adjourn, 5:15 pm

Future Meetings

October 29, 2020

November 19, 2020

December 10, 2020

January 28, 2021

February 25, 2021

March 25, 2021

April 29, 2021