**University Graduate Committee**

Wednesday, April 22, 2020

3:00-5:00pm

Online via ZOOM

**Members Present:** Michael Amundson (History), Colleen Byron (Administration), Ginger Christenson (Sustainable Communities), Dawn Clifford (Public Health), Karina Collentine (Ex-officio: Graduate College Associate Dean), Bettie Coplan (Physician Assisting), Slava Fofanov (Informatics & Computer Science), Heidi Feigenbaum (Engineering- Mechanical), Catherine Gehring (Biological Sciences), Matthew Gidley (Engineering, Informatics, and Applied Sciences), Robert Goodman (Psychological Sciences),Mike Gowanlock (Informatics & Computer Science), John Heick (Physical Therapy & Athletic Training), Rich Hofstetter (Forestry), Emily Hoppe (Music), Maiah Jaskoski (Politics & International Affairs), Lynn Jones (Criminology & Criminal Justice), Frederick Lampe (Anthropology), Ji Eun Lee (educational psychology), Gretchen McAllister (Teaching & Learning), Mohamed Mohamed (Sociology), Truong Nghiem (Informatics & Computer Science), Michelle Parsons (Interdisciplinary Health), Nicole Price (Spanish), Nancy Riggs (School of Earth and Sustainability), Brendan Russo (Engineering – Civil), Anna Sosa (Communication Science & Disorders), Laura Sujo-Montes (Educational Specialties), Lara Taggart (Occupational Therapy), Melinda Treml (Ex Officio: Curriculum and Assessment Director), David Trilling(Astronomy & Planetary Science), Ann Vert (Nursing & PL), Sneha Vissa (Graduate Student Government), Maribeth Watwood (Ex Officio: Graduate College Dean), Bridget Wipf (Ex-officio: Library), Bahattin Yildiz (Mathematics & Statistics).

**Members Absent:** Vedran Dronjic (Applied Linguistics), Jay Farness (English – Literature), John Fegyveresi (Climate Sciences), Rebecca Frantz (Educational Specialties), Lena Gaddis (Educational Psychology), John Gibbs (Anthropology), Sibylle Gruber (English – RWDMS), Stephanie Hurst (Chemistry & Biochemistry), Erika Konrad (English – Professional Writing), Ann Medill (Social Work), Ishmael Munene (Ex-officio: Faculty Senate), Katsu Oi (Applied Sociology), Grace Okoli (Educational Leadership), Sue Pieper (Curriculum and Instruction), Sandra Raymond (English – Education), Danielle Ross (Science Teaching), Vicki Ross (Teaching & Learning), Kathryn Savage (Business), Erik Schiefer (Geography, Planning, & Recreation), Janine Schipper (Applied Sociology), Jon Torn (Communication), Franklin Vernon (Parks & Recreation), Nicole Walker (English – Creative Writing),Lydia Wielgus (Business).

The meeting came to order at 3:02pm

1. Emily Hoppe – Welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Motion to Approve meeting minutes for March – approved – unanimous, 0 ‘no’ votes, 0 abstentions.
3. Presentation from CIE: Alternative English Language Proficiency Tests – Meaghan Gruber, Ting Hsien, Eric Scott
   * 1. Meaghan Gruber introduced the new English Language Proficiency test that CIE is looking at, Duolingo. She explained that up until now, the TOEFL and IELTS have been the standard English proficiency tests used by NAU. However, these tests are expensive, long, require students to go to testing centers, and not easily available to international students. She explained that Duolingo is better in all of these categories and it provides both a written and oral sample to departments in order to better aid them in determining if the student’s English is sufficient for the program.
     2. Eric Scott also explained that there is a course, ENG 506, specifically for international graduate students who need help improving their English.
     3. If you have any other questions about Duolingo, you can reach out to Emily Hoppe and she can help you.
4. Dean Watwood
   1. Dean Watwood discussed the upcoming commencement ceremony. She explained that she went to a recording studio and they created a virtual commencement to celebrate the graduating class. She explained that a link for graduation will be provided for all to watch.
   2. Frederick Lampe asked what the impact pass/fail would be for graduate assistants. Dean Watwood explained that students would not be penalized for choosing the pass/fail option.
   3. Lastly, Dean Watwood discussed the options for Fall. She said that the plan is to have in person classes but that no official decision has been made.
5. Associate Dean Collentine
   1. Associate Dean Collentine began by explaining that there is a document going out to all UGC members to help Master’s students collect defense signatures. She asked all members to help distribute them to their department.
   2. Next, Associate Dean Collentine explained that there will be a need to have doctoral defenses over the summer semester and that she will need volunteers from the UGC to sit in on the defenses.
   3. Lastly, she announced the graduate awards ceremony. The Graduate College created a way to highlight the successes of the students and that it can be found on the Graduate College website. She also announced that Vicki Ross was selected for the outstanding graduate coordinator award.
6. GSG Co-President Sneha Vissa
7. Sneha asked all members to encourage their students to consider running for GSG. Elections are coming up and not many students have shown interest.
8. If you have any questions on her report, you can email her directly at sv468@nau.edu
9. Graduate College Presentation – Master’s-in-passing and master’s fall back revisit.
10. Associate Dean Collentine wanted to revisit some of the questions from the March meeting about the Master’s-in-passing (MIP).
11. The first question was: If a master’s degree program is created for the sole purpose of awarding a MIP degree, does this mean that the program is not on the books, and that no one can be admitted to the program unless they are an eligible student for the MIP degree? Associate Dean Collentine responded that was correct and that they are hoping to have the degrees coded differently in the system.
12. The next question was: If a doctoral student takes many courses in a chosen area (emphasis, specialization, concentration, etc.), and we have an existing master’s degree that matches that focus, can they earn a MIP in that degree instead of the degree that directly matches the Ph.D. title? Associate Dean Collentine responded that MIP degrees can only be awarded if they have the same title as the Ph.D. according to ABOR Policy.
13. Dean Watwood explained that the department will have the final say in whether a student completed all of the requirements necessary for a MIP Master’s degree.
14. Melinda Treml concluded the talk of MIP by explaining that before there is any change to policy, the changes will be brought before the UGC.
15. Discussion about the UGC this year and Introduction of Qualtrics Anonymous Feedback Survey
16. Emily began the discussion by bringing up the change to bylaws 6.3.1. There was a motion approved to table the discussion until next year.
17. Michael Amundson discussed how the UGC meetings are scheduled during a time that graduate faculty members need to be teaching. Emily responded that the new chair/executive committee will look into scheduling a time that would be more available.
18. Welcoming of Dawn Clifford, UGC Chair 2020-2021
19. Emily introduced next year’s UGC chair, Dawn Clifford.
20. Everyone thanked Emily for her service as UGC chair this year.

Meeting adjourned: 5:02pm