

## Graduate College

**University Graduate Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, April 19, 2023  
3:00-5:00pm – Online Via Zoom**

**Members Present:** Viacheslav Fofanov Chair (Informatics & Computer Science), Rebecca Best (Earth and Sustainability), Gayle Blanchard (Educational Leadership), Laura Bounds (Graduate College), Colleen Byron (Organizational Leadership), Joe Collentine (Spanish), Tiffany Cooke (Physician Assistant Studies), Emery Eaves (Anthropology), Joshua Emery (Astronomy & Planetary Science), John Fegyveresi (Climate Science & Solutions), Heidi Feigenbaum (Engineering-Mechanical), Thomas Finger (History), Jeffrey Foster (Biological Sciences), Peter Friederici (Sustainable Communities), Michael Gowanlock (Computer Science), Nicole Hampton (Special Education), John Heick, (Physical Therapy & Athletic Training), Rich Hofstetter (Forestry), Stephanie Hurst (Chemistry), Chelsey E. Johnson (English/Creative Writing), Chesleigh Keene (Educational Psychology), Gretchen McAllister (Teaching & Learning, Curriculum & Instruction), Leslie Mitchell (Informatics), Jose Moreno (Ethnic Studies), Truong Nghiem (Informatics & Computer Science), Laura Noll (Psychological Sciences), Brettania O’Connor (Public Health), Natalie Randolph (Social Work), Sara Rinfret (Public Administration), Rich Rogers (Communication), Brendan Russo (Engineering-Civil), Erik Schiefer (Geography, Planning & Recreation), Janine Schipper (Sociology), Sandra Stewart (Clinical Speech and Language Pathology), James Swift (Mathematics and Statistics), Ann Vert (Nursing & PL), Shelby Waite (Franke College of Business), Andy Walters (Psychological Sciences), Kyle Winfree (Computer Science), Nancy Wonders (Criminology & Criminal Justice), Brittany Blanchard (Library), Maribeth Watwood (Ex Officio: Graduate College Dean), Melinda TremI (Ex-officio: Curriculum and Assessment).

**Members Absent:** Dave Auty (Forestry), Luke Plonsky (Applied Linguistics), Hal Tagma (Politics and International Affairs), John Gibbs (Applied Physics), Nancy Sullivan (Music)

**UGC Chair, Viacheslav (Slava) Fofanov welcomed everyone to the meeting and the meeting came to order at 3:00 pm MST.**

**Guest Speakers:**

**Melinda TremI, Office of Curriculum and Assessment**

**1. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS –**

- i. UGC March 2023 meeting minutes: Motion to approve the UGC March 2023 meeting minutes as distributed was made by Colleen Byron and seconded by John Heick; **minutes were approved** (0 nay votes), via zoom chat box.
- ii. Preparing for AY 23-24 UGC: Chair Election Vote.
  - i. Official vote for Dr. Kyle Winfree. Motion moved by Colleen Byron and seconded by Jeff Foster (0 nay votes, 1 abstention)

- ii. Chair in-waiting nominations: Slava is strongly encouraging members to consider this role. No one put their names in the hat. We will resume this discussion in the fall.

## 2. Policies up for vote –

- i. Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's Program (#100309, **3<sup>rd</sup> discussion**)
  - i. Review of proposed changes: Slava confirmed the main change to the current policy: *"It is necessary to apply for graduation from the undergraduate degree program at least on semester before finishing the master's degree and with a minimum of 9 units of credits remaining in graduate coursework to ensure continued enrollment in graduate level coursework for the master's degree program"*.
    - 1. Richard Rogers moved to vote. Colleen Byron seconded the motion. (23 ayes, 2 abstentions).
- ii. Undergraduates in Graduate Courses (#100327, **3<sup>rd</sup> discussion**)
  - i. Review of proposed changes: *"If you are a qualified senior not enrolled in an accelerated program, you may enroll in up to a total of 9 units of NAU 500-level course during your undergraduate career with the permission of the instructor and your advisor. You can count up to 9 units of credit toward either a bachelor's degree or a graduate degree, but not both; if you plan to count the course toward a graduate degree, it should not be used to fulfill undergraduate degree requirements.. Use the Out of Career form"*. We will link the related policy that notes that undergraduate students are not permitted to enroll for 600-level coursework.
    - 1. Motion to vote made by Colleen Byron. Seconded by Kyle Winfree. (25 ayes, 1 abstention).

## 3. Policies under continued discussion –

- i. Graduate course repeat policy (#100318, **2<sup>nd</sup> discussion**)
  - i. A proposed change to the current policy which states that grades are not replaced at the graduate level, they are averaged. The policy in its current state can be problematic, specifically, for our international students who do not have options to retake courses due to visa restrictions. Mike Gowanlock from SICCS has concerns with the proposed change as their programs (specifically the MS in Computer Science) have ballooned in enrollment but also in academic integrity violations (AIV). Their department is uncertain if the proposed policy would incentivize students to repeat a class and the faculty are not incentivized to reteach a class to students with AIV records. They would feel more comfortable if the policy could include language that if a student received an AIV, they could not repeat the course. Slava clarified that currently, there is nothing preventing these students from repeating the course, the only difference would be that if the proposed policy were in effect, the higher grade would replace the lower, the grades would not be averaged. Tiffany Cooke from the PA program noted that we should keep the language in the original policy that requires a student procure advisor approval before repeating a course. Heidi Feigenbaum in Engineering is also hesitant about the proposed policy. She notes that many students are coming into programs woefully unprepared, and she would not want us giving false hope that they can succeed in the program. Slava countered that we may be muddying the waters in

that both academic integrity violations and admitting unprepared students should be addressed with other policies or processes. This proposed policy is to help students recover just as it helps undergraduate students recover. To address specific department concerns, Melinda Trembl suggested that permissions can be written in the academic catalog, i.e., in the PA program, course replacement is not possible without advisor approval. We are tabling this discussion until Fall when we will pick it up again.

- ii. New policy discussions (1<sup>st</sup> reading)
  - i. Graduate Transfer with Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) (#100318, **1<sup>st</sup> discussion**)
    - 1. Continuing the discussion from the fall to incorporate Prior Learning Assessment in our Transfer Credit policy, i.e. military credentials, professional experiences, etc. We have identified the components and methods that could be used to evaluate prior learning at the discretion of each program. We will be voting on the proposed change in the fall semester. We're hoping to have this finalized October-ish.
  - ii. Dual Graduate Degree policy (#100812, **1<sup>st</sup> discussion**)
    - 1. Throughout the fall semester, we had different programs express an interest to create formal dual degrees. The difference between a concurrent degree is that a concurrent degree is selected by the student and potentially share units across two programs. Concurrent degrees are developed by a student. Dual degrees would be formalized and put into the catalog. A dual degree is creating a formal connection between two degrees where the skills and knowledge of those are evaluated, and it is determined that common courses fulfill skills and knowledge so that instead of having to do 60 units of credit, a student may be able to complete both degrees with fewer than 60 units. This allows for the combination of a masters and a doctoral degree or a scenario (as an example) where a student pursues and MBA and a PA degree (department approval required). Up to 9 units for two masters degrees and up to 15 units for a masters and doctoral. Gretchen McAllister asked that Kyle Winfree bring this up in our first meeting in the Fall as there is still some confusion on the differences between these options.

#### 4. UGC Reports:

- i. Vice Provost and Dean Watwood:
  - i. Maribeth thanked all the UGC for their engagement, participation, and thoughtful review. She is on campus all summer and will be available for any questions or discussions. She did give an update as to the student group that was protesting graduate fees. The students marched to the President's Office to deliver their points.
- ii. Associate Dean of the Graduate College, Laura Bounds:
  - i. The Graduate College is working on the last student newsletter of the year. She asked that UGC reps send any announcements to her office to be included in the newsletter. The Graduate College is considering moving the annual 3MRP event to fall as it better aligns with the regional and national

competitions. She thanked the UGC for their hard work and encouraged new participation on next year's Executive Committee.

ii. GSG President Updates, Masha Kostromitina:

1. Masha thanked the UGC members that agreed to participate in the judging of the Poster Symposium. There were over 40 posters displayed. She reported that the GSG is hoping to continue discussions with the student group regarding the graduation fee complaint.

iii. Outgoing Chair closing remarks:

1. This year's group tackled a big year of policy review and Slava is thankful for all the faculty involvement and thoughts on these reviews. He was proud to have been a part of this year's team.

5. Motion to Adjourn the meeting: John Heick moved to adjourn, seconded by Kyle Winfree

**The meeting adjourned at 5:05pm MST.**