

## Graduate College

**University Graduate Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 15, 2021  
3:00-5:00 - Online Via Zoom**

**Members Present:** John Heick, Chair (Physical Therapy & Athletic Training), Dawn Clifford, (Public Health), Rebecca Best (Earth and Sustainability), Viacheslav Fofanov (Informatics & Computer Science), Sandy Stewart (Clinical Speech-Language Pathology), Lena Gaddis (Educational Psychology), Laura Sujo-Montes (Educational Specialties), Colleen Byron (Organizational Leadership), Nancy Wonders (Criminology & Criminal Justice), Catherine Gehring (Biology), Truong Nghiem (Informatics & Computer Science), Gayle Blanchard (Educational Leadership), Brettania O'Connor (Public Health), Emery Eaves (Anthropology), Natalie Randolph (Social Work), Dave Auty (Forestry), Ann Vert (Nursing & PL), Emily Hoppe (Music), Heidi Feigenbaum (Engineering-Mechanical), Luke Plonsky (Applied Linguistics), Brendan Russo (Engineering-Civil), Mahendra Joshi (Business Administration), John Fegyveresi (Climate Sciences), Robert Buscaglia (Statistics), Tarang Jain (Physical Therapy, Faculty Senate), Tyler Robinson (Astronomy & Planetary Science), Michael Amundson (History), T. Mark Montoya (Stephanie Hurst (Chemistry), Joe Collentine (Spanish), Maia Jaskoski (Politics and International Affairs for Hal Tagma), Laura Noll (Psychological Sciences), Bettie Coplan (Physician Assistant Studies), Michael Gowanlock (Computer Science), Franklin Vernon (Parks & Recreation), Jon Torn (Communication), Vicki Ross (Curriculum & Instruction), Brittany Blanchard (Library), Maribeth Watwood (Ex Officio: Graduate College Dean), Karina Collentine (Ex-officio: Graduate College Associate Dean), Melinda Treml (Ex Officio: Curriculum and Assessment Director), and Rebecca Seeger, (Ex-officio: GSG President), and Masha Kostomitina (Ex-officio: Vice President of University Affairs).

**Members Absent:** Erik Schiefer (Geography, Planning & Recreation), Leslie Mitchell (Engineering, Informatics, and Applied Sciences), John Gibbs (Applied Physics and Material Science).

**New UGC Chair, John Heick, welcomed everyone to the first meeting of AY2021-2022, and the meeting came to order at 3:03pm MST.**

- 1. WELCOME** - UGC Chair, John Heick welcome all new and returning members to the first UGC meeting of the academic year. Dr. Heick requested that any members who are interested in becoming a candidate for UGC Chair-Elect, for next academic year, 2022-2023 to please announce. Viacheslav "Slava," Fofanov, requested to be considered a candidate for the UGC Chair-Elect position. If anyone else is interested, please email Dr. Heick, and the UGC committee will vote at the next meeting on Wednesday, October 20, 2021.
- 2. ACTION - UGC March 2021 meeting minutes:** Motion to approve the UGC March 2021 meeting minutes as distributed was made by Ann Leslie Vert and seconded by Colleen Byron; it was approved unanimously (0 'no' votes and 0 abstentions), via zoom chat box.

3. Chair, John Heick reviewed the UGC descriptions of tasks. He asked that each UGC member select one task/committee to serve on for the year and to sign-up within the next week.

#### 4. REPORTS – Dean Watwood

Dean Watwood welcomed all and added the following key points in addition to her distributed report:

- a) Dean Watwood thanked all of the UGC members for serving on the committee, and expressed her appreciation for all of the hard work in advance. Dean Watwood highlighted the importance of serving on the Oral Defense Committee, and stated that it is a very important assignment for the rigor and fairness for our top doctoral degree recipients. Dean Watwood recognized and thanked Ann Leslie Vert for serving on nine oral defenses over this past summer, and thanked her for all of her hard work and commitment to graduate students.
- b) Dean Watwood reported that announcements are coming out for the new 2022 Presidential Fellowship program for our outstanding Ph.D. students. She reported we would be aligning with our new President's commitment to diversity and will be changing a few things about the cycle. Changes include encouraging current NAU students to be nominated, adjusting the timing of the cycles, and considering representation in decision-making. Dean Watwood also mentioned the new scholarship cycle is coming up for the Quayle Scholarship, Graduate College Scholarships and GSG Scholarships, and asked the committee members to please get the word out to students and let them know of all of these opportunities.
- c) Dean Watwood reported that she has re-confirmed with John Georgas, that there have not been any recent conversations or discussions about going back to the 8 week academic session format from 7 ½ weeks. Dean Watwood reported that John Georgas would be receptive to discussing this issue in the future, but that currently, all energy is focused on multi-term enrollment roll back.
- d) Maiah Jaskoski asked, "For the PFP, when will we be notified about the review waves and the resources?" Dean Watwood clarified that it is an additional \$1,000.00 per year, for 4 years, and she is considering arguing for programs that take 5 years, and will continue to accept zoom and phone interviews for recruitment visits. Dean Watwood emphasized that she would like to trust the people leading our programs regarding the timing of recruitment, and the review scheduling will be reflective of that.
- e) Slava Fofanov thanked Dean Watwood for the PFP scholarships, and that it has been very useful in recruiting students. He stated that it has benefitted many students not only for the funding, but also for the prestige. Slava asked, "Are we going to have GRE's, should we continue to encourage students to take the GRE?" Dean Watwood reported that the Graduate College has no requirements for the GRE, and that it is not required for the Presidential Fellowship.

#### 5. Associate Dean Collentine

- a) Associate Dean Collentine announced that she learned before the meeting that UGC Chair, John Heick, has just returned from accepting a very prestigious award in Washington, D.C. Dr. Heick was awarded the Lucy Blair Service Award by the American Physical Therapy

Association, and President Joe Biden attended the ceremony. All members virtually congratulated John, and sent messages of recognition in the chat.

- b) Associate Dean Collentine highlighted a couple of points from her distributed report: Associate Dean Collentine announced there are slew of Professional Development events this fall. She mentioned the upcoming sessions regarding group counseling with Campus Health Services and Brittany Blanchard's session on research basic. Dr. Collentine encouraged and asked all UGC members to announce, promote, and spread the word to students to attend and participate in these events.

**GSG President – Rebecca Seeger**

- a. Rebecca Seeger introduced herself, and Masha Kostomitina Vice President of Academic Affairs of the GSG. Rebecca reported there are a couple of vacancies on the committee, and any students that are interested should contact Rebecca Seeger.
- b. GSG President, Rebecca Seeger announced that the Fall Poster Symposium for will be managed and conducted by the GSG, and thanked all UGC members in advance for participating in the judging of the posters in spring 2022.
- c. If you have any questions regarding GSG, please email [gsg@nau.edu](mailto:gsg@nau.edu).

John Heick thanked everyone for attending and reminded the UGC members make sure to sign up for the UGC tasks within the next week. He announced that he has extended an invitation to President Cruz Rivera to attend the next meeting, and he will communicate any details about this meeting as soon as possible.

**The meeting adjourned at 4:08pm MST.**