

## **GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES**

Thursday, May 11, 2023 – CMCT 101

**PRESENT:** Megan Adkins, Kazuma Akehi, John Bauer, Michelle Beissel Heath, Matt Bjornsen, Ben Brachle, Ngan Chau, Anne Foradori, Martonia Gaskill, Grace Mims, Austin Nuxoll, Whitney Schneider-Cline, Chris Steinke, Michelle Warren, Laurinda Weisse, Kelcie Burke, Tawny Moore, Jada Ruff, and Linda Johnson

**ABSENT:** Mallory Wetherell

### **I. Approval of the April 13, 2023 Minutes – approved via email.**

### **II. Climate Survey Response**

Ladan Ghazi Said and Daniel Chaffin presented the results of the climate survey to Graduate Council.

### **III. Communication Audit**

Ruff distributed the results of a final project for her Public Communication master's degree. Her project was titled, "Analysis of Communication Effectiveness in Higher Education."

### **IV. Graduate Student Association (GSA) Update**

Ruff, Moore, and Burke reported that the Graduate Student Association (GSA) has hosted social events, a virtual open house to introduce graduation programs, and participated in the "Big Event." They informed the council that Marissa Macy is now a co-advisor, and they are looking for an advisor from B & T and CAS. The GSA has a canvas page with information for new graduate students, updates, meeting minutes, and more. The organization will be participating in the Blue and Gold Showcase and GA/GRA Orientation in the fall to build membership. They are also collaborating with UNL and UNO's Graduate Student Associations.

### **V. Summer Enrollment and Other Announcement**

Linda Johnson reported on enrollments numbers for the summer and fall. She informed the council that she has been working with Financial Aid in regard to part-time aid. Graduate students will now be required (starting in Fall 2023) to be enrolled in 5 hours (currently 4 hours) to receive aid. This change will be reflected in the Graduate Catalog.

### **VI. Graduate Dean's Announcements**

#### **A. *2023 Spring Graduates***

Unanimous approval of the updated slate of spring graduates (Beissel-Heath/Steinke). Motion carried.

#### **B. *GPC Handbook***

The GPC Resource Guide is now complete.

#### **C. *Grade Appeal Policy***

The grade appeal policy has been clarified, approved, and will be in the graduate catalog.

#### **D. *Strategic Plan***

Ellis explained that all colleges are working on a strategic plan, and he will be seeking feedback from the council.

#### **E. *Program Reviews***

Ellis announced that a self-study will be completed by each graduate program starting in the fall. This will be a mini version of an APR to identify strengths and weaknesses. He will be contacting GPC chairs, as they will be responsible for the self-study.

- F. *Accelerated Programs*  
Academic Affairs have already approved the accelerated program as well as the Finance Office, the Registrar, and Graduate Admissions. These programs will start in 2024. An approval vote was taken.  
**Action Item:** Beissel Heath/Foradori made a motion and second to approve. Unanimous approval.
- G. *Revision of Committee II*  
Beginning in the fall, each member of Graduate Council will be a member of Committee II. Each college will review its own colleges' course and program changes and have a representative on Committee II.
- H. *Tested Experience*  
Ellis explained that HLC guidelines require those who teach graduate classes have the terminal degree, and if they don't, they need tested experience -accumulated experience or credentials equal to a terminal degree. Tested experience forms will now be reviewed by Graduate Council as well as the dean. Tested experience is to be used only in extreme cases.
- I. *Graduate Studies meeting*  
There will be a September meeting for all graduate faculty.
- J. *Graduate Council Election Results*  
*B&T – Angela Hollman replacing Matt Bjornsen*  
*COE – Doug Tillman replacing Grace Mims*  
*CAS – Mary Harner and Michelle Warren replacing John Bauer and Anne Foradori*  
*(Michelle Warren moving from EGC to Representative from CAS)*  
There will need to be a fall election because Wetherell has resigned from the council.

## VII. Committee Reports –

- A. Policy & Planning Committee – committee reviewed the GPC Policy Handbook.
- B. Academic Programs Committee

For Graduate Council Information – the following course has been approved by Committee II.

Course Number	Nature of Request	Recommendation
CYBR 812P: Fundamentals and Security of Mobile Networks	New Course Proposal	Approved

- C. Faculty & Student Affairs Committee – committee reviewed nominees for the Reichenbach Scholarship.
- D. DEI Subcommittee – nothing to report.
- E. Graduate Review Editorial Board Subcommittee – the board focused on completing tasks necessary to publish an issue of the Graduate Review before graduation. All board members reviewed submissions. The Editor and Co-Editor reviewed submissions, communicated with authors and reviewers, and began formatting articles for publication.

## VIII. Other Business

NU Advance and 8-week courses were discussed. Ellis expressed appreciation to those leaving the council and thanked all for their hard work this last year. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janna Shanno