

Council on Graduate Studies

Minutes

October 4, 2022

The October 4, 2022 meeting of the Council on Graduate Studies met in 3108 Blair Hall at 2:00 pm.

Members Present: Dr. Beth Gill, Dr. Bonnie Laughlin-Schultz, Dr. Christina Edmonds-Behrend, Dr. Nikki Hillier, Ms. Elizabeth Nwaozuru, with Dr. Nichole Hugo, Dr. Kevin Anderson and Dr. Jim Bruehler attending by Zoom

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Ms. Lana Beasley, Dean Hendrickson, Ms. Myra Taylor

Guests Present: None

I. Approval of the September 6, 2022 CGS Meeting Minutes

Dr. Nikki Hillier made a motion to approve; motion seconded by Dr. Christina Edmonds-Behrend. Council approved minutes by acclamation.

II. Communications

College Curriculum Committee Minutes: College of Health & Human Services Curriculum Committee Minutes, September 6, 2022

III. Approved Executive Actions

- a. EA-CLAS-23-03 Add two (2) graduate courses to the list of accelerated graduate courses
- b. EA-COE-23-04- Request to correct credit hours listed for EDP 5330: Educational Psychology for Teaching

Motion to approve all executive actions made by Dr. Bonnie Laughlin-Schultz, motion seconded by Dr. Nikki Hillier. Council approved by acclamation.

IV. Items Added to the Agenda

None

V. Items Acted Upon

- a. Associate Graduate Faculty Limitation Waiver Request: Josh Grube, MA, School of Communication and Journalism

Motion to approve made by Dr. Jim Bruehler, motion seconded by Dr. Nikki Hillier.
Roll call vote: 8-0-0. Motion approved.

VI. Items Pending

None

1. Other Items

- a. *Proposed discussion: Retake of a course when a letter grade of "C" is received (Dr. Nichole Hugo):* The committee weighed the possibility of allowing graduate students to retake a course if a grade of "C" is received. Currently, graduate students may only retake courses in which they have received a "D" or "F". Dr. Hugo stated Dr. Boggs and the Lumpkin Leadership Team suggested the need to allow students who receive a "C" to retake courses in order to better their overall GPA average.

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For clarification, Dr. Hugo shared the current catalog description regarding the allowance for retakes: *“Unless otherwise stipulated in the catalog description, only courses in which grades of D, F, NF, NNC, or NC (NOT A, B, C, or CR) were received may be repeated. The highest grade received for the course, taken at Eastern, will automatically be included in the computation of the cumulative GPA. The initial grade and the repeat grade will appear on the student’s record.”*

As a minimum 3.0 GPA is required to graduate from EIU Graduate School, allowing the retake with the hope of receiving a higher letter grade would increase the likelihood of a student’s successful graduation. Ms. Lana Beasley clarified both letter grades remain on the graduate student’s transcripts and are both subsequently used to compute GPA. The higher grade does not “replace” the lower grade on the transcript.

The committee concurred allowing a student to retake a course after receiving a “C” would be beneficial. Further, the committee agreed the catalog terminology was somewhat unclear and proposed a revision to same.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. *Booth Collaborative Advisory Committee:* Dean Hendrickson reported further appointments had been made to the Advisory Committee, including the addition of graduate student Eric Ogbe (Sustainability).
- b. *Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC):* Ms. Myra Taylor reported the GSAC had held their first official meeting of the year and successfully elected individuals to all vice president positions. GSAC has also secured speakers to present at most meetings and have a volunteer project scheduled in the coming month.
- c. *EWorx:* Dean Hendrickson advised Dr. Josh Normand shared that undergraduate student retention numbers were stronger than initially thought, and graduate student retention numbers were quite positive. The Dean stated the international graduate student population had a retention rating in the 90th percentile.
- d. *Textbook Rental Advisory:* Dr. Jim Bruehler advised no new information needed to be forwarded to the CGS committee.

Dean’s Report

- a. *Alumni Mentorship Program:* Dean Hendrickson stated the Alumni Mentorship Program was a valuable offering to graduate students. The program provides the opportunity to receive insight from an alumnus about the graduate study process, and also have contact with someone who is utilizing their own education successfully. Graduate Coordinators were asked to select both a grad student and an alumnus to participate in the program.
- b. *Prior Learning Credit:* The Dean shared he had spoken with several department chairs who were willing and excited about the potential to offer competency-based education (CBE) credit for experience related to the Master’s degree being sought. Dean Hendrickson asked members to continue envisioning what CBE could look like in their departments, and reinforced the necessity of doing so in order to remain competitive in the graduate school marketplace.

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- c. *Graduate Programs of Excellence:* Dean Hendrickson expressed the importance of having programs begin the Graduate Programs of Excellence initiative. The Dean reiterated \$7500 Graduate Programs of Excellence could receive \$7500 to use to further their program.

Meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

CGS Minutes recorded by Myra Taylor

The current agenda and all CGS minutes are available on the Web at <http://castle.eiu.edu/eiucgs>