2019-2020 Committee for Graduate Education Agenda
January 10, 2020
3:00pm
RSS 235

Committee members: Sandy Slater (Chair; History), Kate Keeney (Arts Management), Amanda Ruth-McSwain (Communication), Adem Ali (Geology), Brian Bossak (Health and Human Performance), Shawn Morrison (French, Francophone, and Italian Studies), Roxane Delaurell (Business Law and Accounting)

Ex-Officio: Jon Hakkila (Graduate School), Godfrey Gibbison (Graduate School), Robyn Olejniczak (Graduate School), Mark Del Mastro (Associate Provost), Mary Bergstrom (Registrar), Jerry Mackeldon (Registrar), Katy Flynn (Office of the Provost)

Invited: July Millesen (PUBA), Kelley White (EDEC), Renée McCauley (CSIS, DATA), Susan Simonian (MSCL)

3:00pm
A. Call to Order
Sandy called the meeting to order at 3:02pm.

B. Approval of November Minutes
Shawn motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Adem seconded. All in favor.

C. Child Life, MS
1. CHLI 650- International Experiences in Child Life and Pediatric Psychosocial Care
   https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:1852/form

   Susan gave an overview of the proposed international program (CHLI 650). It is critical that students build support components independent of spoken language.

   Sandy asked if this will be offered every year? How will you recruit and maintain enrollment? Susan stated that this is an elective. They cannot require graduate students to participate. Undergraduate students in Psychology will also participate in the program. Currently, approximately five graduate students are planning to participate. Undergraduate students would be additional.

   The program could be replicated in other countries and other areas in the U.S. Sandy asked about the international title. If there was a U.S. program, then Susan would develop a separate course or build into an existing course.
Shawn asked about the population of children in Italy. Susan responded that Florence has received many refugees; the population is diverse. Also there are many vacationers.

Kate motioned to approved. Shawn seconded. All approved.

2. **COMM 580 from Requirement to Elective**
   https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:1880/form

   Kate asked about the COMM 580 course. Susan talked about the accrediting body as the one that is siloing CHLI coursework. There is a lot of value in health communication. She would like to keep this as an option in the curriculum.

   Robyn asked about the enrollment in COMM 580. Susan responded that Child Life students are a chunk of the class, but likely enrollment will be ok as it is open to other COMM students. Amanda expressed a similar statement about enrollment in COMM 580.

   Kate motioned to approve. Amanda seconded. All approved.

D. **Early Childhood Education, M.A.T. - MAT-EDEC**
   1. **Dropping Required Credits from 48+ to 45+**

      Kelley gave an overview of the changes. The curriculum course and the field course will be dropped.

      Kate asked about dropping the curriculum course as it seems very valuable. Kelley responded with how the curriculum development component overlaps in other methods classes.

      Brian motioned to approve. Amanda seconded. All approved.

      Jon mentioned that there are other related course changes in the que that will be added to a future agenda.

E. **Teacher Education**
   1. **EDFS - 510 - Characteristics of Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities**
      
      Title Change
      https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:2099/form

      Sandy discussed the proposal changes—language that reflects federal law. Sandy suggested that we vote as a batch.

      Shawn Morrison motioned to approve. Brian seconded. All approved.
F. **Computer Science and Information Science**

1. **CSIS - 656 - Software Systems Design and Implementation (remove prereq in Catalog)**
   
   https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:1943/form

   Renee reviewed the proposed changes.

   Shawn motioned to approve. Adem seconded. All approved.

2. **CSIS - 670 - Developing Mobile Applications (change language)**
   

   Renee reviewed the proposed changes. This change is to remove “admission to the program” as a prerequisite.

   Kate motioned to approve. Adem seconded. All approved.

   Sandy noted that more CSIS proposals are coming through the queue.

G. **Public Administration**

1. **PUBA 600 Foundations of Public Sector Management and Leadership (Course Title Change)**
   
   https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:2154/form

   Judy reviewed the proposed changes. The new title better reflects the course content.

   Kate motioned to approve. Amanda seconded. All approved.

2. **Public Administration, M.P.A. Admission Requirements Changes**
   

   Judy reviewed the change to the GRE policy for admissions. The program realized that the GRE requirement may discourage some quality applicants. Sandy asked about how much weight has been given to this test in the past. Judy said that GPA is most important, then students’ statements, then letters of recommendation, then GRE score. The GRE has never been the deciding factor.

   Amanda asked about the Graduate School’s admissions criteria, as this issue is coming up nation wide. Jon noted that the testing companies are upset. Holistic entrance requirements, however, means that a program needs to have a wide range of tools in order to determine if it can accept students. There needs to be a positive way to assess students in a way other than a standardized test. So entrance requirements are actually stronger. Godfrey remarked on how the new PUBA admissions language was developed.

   Judy talked about the process of vetting a marginal student. The admissions committee has the right to ask for the GRE.

   Jon noted that the GRE or standardized test is required for Graduate School fellowships. This is stated in the updated PUBA policy as well. Godfrey remarked
that the Graduate School is trying to track these new admissions criteria to student outcomes. Godfrey sees this as an experiment. If it doesn’t work, it can be changed.

Brian noted that the proposal as written might be a little confusing. The committee discussed the language.

Jon said that the Graduate School does assess entrance requirements. It is ok for programs to change, but try not to do it too frequently because it is difficult to assess.

Sandy asked a question to the Graduate leadership. Will other programs see this change and want to follow, before we have outcomes? How will this play out long term?

Godfrey responded that when a program has been practicing alternative program admissions, then it needs to be defined and transparent. Not many other people at the College have been considering a similar admissions change. An example is the MAT in Performing Arts.

Brian brought up a concern about making a decision and then getting data, versus having data first. Robyn remarked that Computer Science has a similar list that can exempt the GRE. On the other hand, Math does not require the GRE as the math requirements on the GRE are not predictive of graduate level math work.

Sandy said that we should trust program directors to make the best decisions based on their populations and students.

Roxanne added that if you are very flexible in admissions standards, and you don’t have an objective judgement, then you are relying on a subjective judgement. Something like a GRE can act as an objective anchor in your decision making. Godfrey remarked that the idea that the GRE is an objective measure has been questioned.

Godfrey said that high school GPA is the best predictor of college readiness.

Shawn motioned to approve. Kate seconded. Six approved. One obstained.

Judy asked the committee, what data would be helpful? Judy would like to collect these and bring them to a future meeting. Brian asked how many students have a negative impact with the GRE requirement? Judy remarked that there are two very distinct groups of students. One of these populations are mid-career professionals. A 40-year-old professional is very concerned about taking the GRE. Most of this change is in response to these two population groups.

H. For the Good of the Order.

The Committee decided to put these two topics on the next agenda for continued discussion.

Curriculum Substitutions or Exceptions
Students are responsible for knowing and understanding academic policy, program requirements, and degree requirements. Only under extraordinary circumstances will faculty permit substitutions or
exceptions to the curriculum published in the catalog. Exceptions cannot be made for a department/program’s curriculum rules, and waivers cannot be made for GPA requirements, for program or degree minimum credit hour requirements, or for academic regulations published in the catalog. Students requesting a substitution or exception should consult with the program director and chair of the department(s). Program directors may submit a request for a substitution or exception consistent with the Guidelines for Evaluating Curriculum Exception Requests by initiating a “petition for exception” in Degree Works. The petition will be reviewed and approved or denied and the student notified of the decision via the College-issued email account. All curriculum substitutions or exceptions are recorded in the student’s permanent record along with the name of the approving authority. In cases where a petition is denied and a student wishes to appeal, materials will be forwarded to the Provost’s Office. The Associate Provost for Curriculum, acting on behalf of the Provost, will review the petition and appeal and render a final decision.

Program directors proposing substitutions should ensure that substituted courses are equivalent of the requirement in course content and rigor. An exception will not be made for something which can be achieved with a catalog year update.

**Conditional Acceptance**

A conditionally accepted student is one who does not meet all the admission criteria, but in the judgment of the appropriate program admission committee, has the potential to successfully complete graduate work. Conditional students have registration holds placed on their accounts and must be registered by the Graduate School until the stipulations of the conditional acceptance are met.

I. **Adjournment.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:02pm