



October 31, 2023 10:30am-noon
111F Townsend Hall

Attending: Amy Rhea, Kristin Kopp, Keith Greenwood, Marcello Mogetta, Chi-Ren Shyu, Jeni Hart, Enid Schatz, Gillian Bartlett, Dan Edidin, Leslie Lyons, Wole Odemuyiya, Kuntara Pukthuanthong, Maria Fidalgo, Abed Rabbani, Julie Miller, John Kerns, Ashley Siebenaler, Angie Zapata, Matt Easter, Azlin Mustapha, Paul Ledehoff, David Beversdorf

Quorum (12): Met

1. Call to order @ 10:31am
2. Acceptance of the agenda
 - a. Amendments to agenda: none
 - b. Motion to approve: Shyu, Second: Ledehoff
 - c. Disposition: Approved
3. Approval of minutes of August 2023 meeting
 - a. Hold for November meeting
4. Committee Reports:
 - a. Academic Affairs – Prof. Angie Zapata, chair
 - i. Course Approvals – changes to existing (edited) and new (added) courses (List of courses distributed separately)
 1. Approval through committee so no motion needed
 2. Point of clarification: Public Affairs classes are 4000/7000 crosslisted so that's why we're seeing a 4000-level course on our list for approval
 3. Disposition: Approved (8 yay votes, 0 nay votes)
 - ii. Program Approvals and Program Change (edited) Proposals
 1. [PhD in Materials Science and Engineering](#) (new program)
 - a. Motion to approve: Shyu
 - b. Disposition: Approved (14 yay, 0 nay)
 2. [Graduate Certificate in Marketing Analytics](#)
 - a. Point of clarification: The Department of Marketing is requesting CIP code change from Marketing Research to Business Analytics, and this is considered a substantive change by the Provost's Office which is why approval is needed even though there are no programmatic

changes.

- b. Content of coursework is more accurate in Business Analytics than in Marketing Research. Marketing Analytics is a subset of Business Analytics and the current designation requires things like surveys and research which the program does not offer. Additionally, the new designation would allow for STEM OPT due to coding and database content.
 - c. Undergraduate program has already been approved through MDHE so this is just updating the graduate program to match.
 - d. Motion to suspend rules for voting: Mogetta, Second: Beversdorf, motion approved (12 yay, 0 nay)
 - e. Motion to approve: Shyu, Second: Fidalgo, no further discussion
 - f. Disposition: Approved (16 yay, 0 nay)
- b. Awards – Prof. Marcello Mogetta, chair
- i. Report: Not so much to report as this is the “quiet before the storm”. The awards nomination deadline for Outstanding Thesis, Outstanding Dissertation, and Outstanding Graduate Faculty Awards is tomorrow (11/1). We do now have well-defined rubrics for each award, so the decision process will be more objective and streamlined.
- c. Policy – Prof. Chi-Ren Shyu, chair
- i. Student payment plan – policy subcommittee endorses GPC resolution, more to come when Parker Owens reports on GPC
 - ii. English Language Score Recommendation (courses instructed in non-English)
 - 1. Committee would like to not make a policy on this but rather would like to endorse Dean Hart’s authority to waive English language requirement in a continuing manner for the purpose of this sort of course feature (that is, courses taught in a non-English language and marketed for a non-English-language audience as is the case with the law course which brought this question to the GFS)
 - 2. Motion: committee motion, no second required
 - 3. Disposition: Approved (19 yay, 0 nay)
 - 4. Incomplete policy for graduate students – Pending discussions with the GFS
 - a. Before the semester began the undergraduate faculty

approved the incomplete policy for UG students (1 formal semester to clear an “I” grade or it becomes an “F”)

- b. Graduate faculty currently has two solutions: either we continue to use the current setup and don’t change policy, or we change policy to be aligned with undergraduate policy.
 - c. We do have a problem with programs trying to apply “I” grades for research courses (8990, 9990) which is not allowed.
 - d. We do seem to have broad agreement that students still need to complete the course, as it will affect GPA when time runs out and the “I” grade becomes an “F” grade. However, 1 semester may not be enough time at the graduate level to finish incomplete work. Also, there is a possibility of having two different policies for two different courses, as is the case in 4000/7000 crosslisted courses.
 - e. At graduate level, there seems to be some disagreement about whether we need to default to a certain grade if the “I” isn’t cleared, but there seems to be broad agreement that there is great value in having written documentation of a discussion with students about the expectations if they take an incomplete for core courses (designated core parts of a program) which could happen at the individual unit level.
 - f. Voting on this issue will occur at the next meeting.
- d. Report: Graduate Professional Council – Mr. Parker Owens, GPC Representative
- i. Resolution regarding student payment plan
 1. \$200 student fee is an additional punishment because the reason why self-pay students in this situation do not pay the initial \$50 payment plan setup fee is because they could not afford it to begin with
 2. GPC requests that the University waive all payment plan setup fees and refund all student payment plan setup fees that have been paid
 3. Gillian Bartlett would like GFS to endorse the resolution as amended for typographical errors, saying that this is just a

statement of our position and we don't have the authority to enforce it.

4. Point of clarification: there is a 1% fee assessed for late charges and this is mostly affecting self-pay students rather than those with assistantships or scholarships – about 50% of our student body are at a distance and are self-pay, as are all professional students.
 5. Motion to approve: Beversdorf, no further discussion.
 6. Disposition: Approved (16 yay, 0 nay)
 - ii. GPC generally reports record numbers of student involvement.
 - iii. On Nov 28, EntrepreneurQuest final presentations, out of 10 finalists 3 will get 15k seed funding for their ideas – held at 4pm in Monsanto Auditorium at Bond Life Sciences Center
- e. Report: Graduate School – Prof. Jeni Hart, Dean of Graduate School and Vice Provost for Graduate Studies
- i. In conversation the graduate associate deans and all deans regarding what's going on with the AAU Association of Graduate Schools, we spent time discussing how many programs are taking deep dive into the size of PhD cohort to better understand how many they have and why they have them, and to try to lessen the number of PhD students who are hired to teach while in school but are underemployed when they graduate.
 - ii. 10% or more stipend increase in the AAU is due to unionization efforts, and whether or not MU grad students unionize, our stipends will need to increase in order to remain competitive.
 - iii. PhD cohort size should be the business of the individual programs
 - iv. 60% of GRAs are funded from grants and 40% from general revenue, and because of this, the Graduate School and the University itself need to have some say in the cohort size.
 - v. With some shift in curriculum we may be able to better prepare PhDs to work outside of academia, showcasing diverse career pathways and a breadth of experiences.
 - vi. In terms of student success pillars, one of our goals is to not decrease the size of programs but rather to increase student success within each discipline.
 - vii. The Graduate School now has 2 full-time career coaches in the Career Center (Audra Jenkins and Laura Roesch) who work with grad students only. Additionally, a lot of gradEssentials programming presented through the Graduate School focuses on diverse career pathways.

- viii. GFS doesn't have to spearhead this conversation because the graduate associate deans, the deans, and Dean Hart will be doing so but please encourage your colleagues and PhD students to engage.

5. Resolutions

- a. Aside from endorsing the GPC resolution, the GFS has no resolutions to consider at this meeting.

6. New Business

- a. Nov 28 at 1030am is next GFS meeting, to be held in 111F Townsend Hall with Zoom link available for those who cannot attend in person.
- b. The exec committee will meet 2 weeks before instead of 1 week before due to fall break.

7. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn by Beversdorf
- b. Disposition: Approved
- c. Meeting adjourned at 11:36am