

Graduate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2024
MEETING LOCATION: Odum Library 1470

Present: Becky da Cruz, Debra Gresham, Ann Greenfield, Lynn Crump, Mitch Lockhart, John Lairsey, David Nelson, Zhong Lin, Kelly Davidson, Dee Ott, Md Ruhul Amin, Matt Grant, Julie Lester, Arsaian Wares, Lenese Colson, Connie Porcaro

Proxy: No Proxy's

Guests: Rebecca Petrella, Crystal Marshall, Kristy Clark, Georgia Wynn and Darli DeVane

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Becky da Cruz at 2:01 pm.

Dr. da Cruz said a few words regarding the passing of Dr. Linda Most who was a previous GEC member and advocate for graduate education. She has been a significant part of VSU, left her mark via the MLIS program, and will be deeply missed for all her contributions.

Dr. da Cruz introduced Kristy Clark, Graduate Student & Service coordinator, who is a new staff member in the Graduate School office who will help with recruitment, communications and GA Onboarding etc.

Minutes from October 17, 2024 were approved. Dee Ott motioned to approve. John Lairsey seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved - 0 opposed – 0 abstained

College Education and Human Services

LTWD

Request to Revised Course (catalog): ACED 7120-Electronic Courseware Design & Development: The proposed changes to the course title and description more accurately highlight the course's focus on multimedia creation and update the outdated technology-related terminology in the current title and description. – David Nelson motioned to approve. Connie Porcaro seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

Request to Revised Course (catalog): HEDL 7880-Counseling is Student Affairs-Name change to more accurately reflect curriculum and to align with comparable classes offered through other higher education leadership programs.

John Lairsey motioned to approve. David Nelson motioned to approve. Connie Porcaro seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

Request to Revised Course (catalog): HEDL 8300-Social Context of Educational Leadership- Name change to more accurately reflect the curriculum and to align with comparable classes offered through other higher education leadership programs. David Nelson motioned to approve. Connie Porcaro seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

Request to Revised Course (catalog): LEAD 7830-Law & Policy in Higher Education- Courses previously listed under LEAD or SAHE in the Higher Education Leadership program were changed to HEDL several years ago. This elective course was overlooked when the curriculum change paperwork was submitted. No changes are being made to the course content—only the subject designation is being updated. David Nelson motioned to approve. Connie Porcaro seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

Request to Revised Course (catalog): LEAD 7922- Internship in Higher Education Leadership- Courses previously listed under LEAD or SAHE in the Higher Education Leadership program were changed to HEDL several years ago. This elective course was overlooked when the curriculum change paperwork was

submitted. No changes are being made to the course content—only the subject designation is being updated. David Nelson motioned to approve. Connie Porcaro seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

Request to Revised Course (catalog): RSCH 9850-Advanced Quantitative research methods- Merging the course aims to enhance the efficiency of course offerings, scheduling them twice a year for our doctoral programs. The primary objective of this combined course is to provide students with the skills and understanding needed to evaluate and apply mixed methods and quantitative research effectively. Through this, students will learn how these research methods can guide best practices within their fields, equipping them to become data-informed decision-makers who make meaningful contributions in their professions. David Nelson motioned to approve. Connie Porcaro seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained

Request for Curriculum Change (catalog): Doctor of Education with a Major in Leadership- This modification aligns with the revised title and content of RSCH 9850. David Nelson motioned to approve. Connie Porcaro seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained

Request for Curriculum Change (catalog): Doctor of Education with a Major in Curriculum & Instruction- This modification aligns with the revised title and content of RSCH 9850. David Nelson motioned to approve. Connie Porcaro seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained

Request for Curriculum Change (catalog): M.Ed. Degree with a Major in Adult & Career Education- This change is in alignment with the course revision of ACED 7120, Students are required to complete all course modules, and their learning outcomes will be assessed and tailored to specific projects. David Nelson motioned to approve. Connie Porcaro seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained

Request for Curriculum Change (catalog): Doctor of ED with a Major in Adult Learning & Development- Through the completion of required assignments in RSCH 9850, students will acquire essential research techniques for their dissertations. Their progress will be evaluated against specific criteria to ensure targeted learning outcomes. David Nelson motioned to approve. Connie Porcaro seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained

Teacher Education

Request to Revised Course (catalog): KSPE 8210-Sport Coaching pedagogy- The sequence of course outcomes support completing the courses in a particular order. Students are admitted in a cohort and the courses are offered each summer to complete the program in five semesters. John Lairsey motioned to approve. Kelly Davidson seconded. Motion passed: 14 approved – 0 opposed – 1 abstained

Request to Revised Course (catalog): KSPE 8600-Professional Coaching Development- The sequence of course outcomes support completing the courses in a particular order. Students are admitted in a cohort and the courses are offered each summer to complete the program in five semesters. John Lairsey motioned to approve. Kelly Davidson seconded. Motion passed: 14 approved – 0 opposed – 1 abstained

Request to Revised Course (catalog): KSPE 8700-Communication Skills for Coaches- The sequence of course outcomes support completing the courses in a particular order. Students are admitted in a cohort and the courses are offered each summer to complete the program in five semesters. John Lairsey motioned to approve. Kelly Davidson seconded. Motion passed: 14 approved – 0 opposed – 1 abstained

College of Science and Mathematics

Biology

Request for Revised Course (catalog): BIOL 5950-Ornithology- Starting Spring 2025, BIOL 3950 Ornithology will not include a 5-day required field trip in order to make the course more accessible to students. For the lecture, I will add a new topic that emphasizes threats to birds and how we can conserve populations and species. In the lab, I will incorporate new active learning exercises on population management, bioacoustics, and data analysis. Debra Gresham motioned to approve. Dee Ott seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained

Request for Revised Course (catalog): BIOL 6530-Comparative Biomechanics-Tabled until January

Request for New Course (catalog): BIOL 6010-Molecular Ecology & Conservation Genetics-This course is an overview of how molecular methods are used to investigate ecological processes in natural populations: including how molecular markers can be applied to research questions related to genetic variation, parentage analyses, population structure, natural selection, patterns of migration, species delimitation, evolutionary relationships, phylogenetics, and conservation. Debra Gresham motioned to approve. Dee Ott seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Political Science

Request for Revised Course (catalog): Master of Public Administration-Tabled until January to obtain signatures and possible revision.

Request for Revised Course (catalog): Bachelor of Science Degree-Accelerated Undergraduate-to-Graduate Track-Tabled until January for signatures and possible revision.

Request for Revised Course (catalog): Bachelor of Arts Degree-Accelerated Undergraduate-to Graduate Track-Tabled until January for signatures and possible revision.

College of Arts

Communication Arts

Request for Revised Course (catalog): MAIC 6450-Rhetorical Criticism & Theory- The current course description does not accurately reflect the content and learning offered in the course. This discrepancy can confuse prospective students and may not adequately represent the valuable skills and knowledge students will gain. Julie Lester motioned to approve. Debra Gresham seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained

Sub/Committee Reports

- **Graduate Research Symposium**-David Nelson requested volunteers to judge the 3MT videos. The Symposium will take place on April 11th and an oral presentation option has been added to the symposium. The nomination form is being sent to grad students directly as well as the faculty, so faculty may hear from grad students about participation.
- **Graduate Student Success**-Dr. da Cruz informed the committee the next new student kick-off will take place on January 9th from 6-7pm
- **Doctoral Program**-The sub-committee met on October 22nd and discussed updating the dissertation template. The committee talked about the academic affairs strategic plan as well.
- **Graduate Appeals**-No Report
- **Graduate Faculty Scholarship**-Dr. da Cruz handed out a revised copy of the Grad Faculty Scholarship

application. The sub-committee noted that some faculty did not include the portion about their activities at the grad level/programs prompting the revision of the application. The committee also discussed limiting funding to one faculty members if multiple faculty are presenting the same research at the same conference.

- **Graduate Faculty Membership**-Dr. da Cruz informed the committee that everyone who requested full status was approved. The committee discussed how to improve the application as well.

Other Business/Topics from the floor

- **Graduate Admissions Update**- Rebecca stated they have closed out the spring applications but if anyone wants to reopen their application to let her know. Dr. da Cruz stated starting this summer three programs have volunteered to pilot the direct admission process.
- **Graduate Assistant Updates**-Dr. da Cruz informed the committee there will be a centralized payroll system in place for GA's beginning next year. GA's will need to be onboarded before the first of the month in order to start work that same month. GA's who are not onboarded by the first of the month will have to wait to start work the next month. GA's will still get their full stipend but will not get paid until the end of the month they start work. To assure they are onboarded in a timely manner they will need to submit the GA Onboarding form two months in advance of when they plan to start their GA position. Dr. da Cruz reminded the committee GA's are not permitted to work remotely unless they have been approved to do so.
- **Revised Draft Graduate Dismissal & readmission Policy**-Dr. da Cruz shared the revised policy with the committee. After discussion of the policy it was approved. Dee Ott motioned to approve. Debra Gresham seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained
- **AGS & SGA Updates**- Georgia Wynn stated that AGS will be doing some holiday treats and crochet classes for GA's

Items from the Floor

- Dr. da Cruz informed the committee that students who may be dismissed after this semester will not be notified until January due to the semester ending later than usual.

Motion made to adjourn at 3:30 pm

Next AC Meeting: January 13, 2025

Next GEC Meeting: January 16, 2025

X *Darli DeVane*

Darli DeVane
Administrative Coordinator

X *Becky K. da Cruz*

Dr. Becky da Cruz, Associate Provost
for Graduate Studies & Research