

Graduate and Professional Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday 13 October 2022

Nagle, Room 113; [Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: XXX XXXX XXXX

Passcode: XXXXXXXX

ATTENDEES

In-Person

Fuhui Tong, Chair

Mary Bryk (Agriculture and Life Sciences), Hank Walker (Engineering), Mike Criscitiello (Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences)

Mark C. Gleason, Administrative Assistant

Trent Smith (Graduate and Professional School), Sandra Williams (Registrar's Office), Yaswant Devarakonda (Graduate and Professional Student Government)

Online

Katie Reed (Architecture), Dwight Gary (Business), Reginald Taylor (Dentistry), Beverly Irby (Education and Human Development), Charlotte Ku (Law), Matthew Sorenson (Nursing), Mansoor Khan (Pharmacy), Tamika Gilreath (Public Health), Kourtney Sterrett (Performance, Visualization, and Fine Arts)

Kristy Delvo (Arts and Sciences), Terri Helge (Law/First Professional Doctoral Curricular Review Committee), Frank North (Pharmacy/First Professional Doctoral Curricular Review Committee), Kathie Smith (Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences), Terra Bissett (Curricular Services), Paula Sullenger (University Libraries), Alicia Dorsey (Provost's Office), Cassandra Stanley (Registrar's Office)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Standardized Test Score Requirement Requests

- Memoranda Received
 - Department of Construction Science – *Attachment 1*
 - MS-Construction Management
 - PHD-Construction Science
 - Department of International Affairs – *Attachment 2*
 - MIA-International Affairs
 - Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning – *Attachment 3*
 - PHD-Urban and Regional Sciences
 - Department of Mathematics – *Attachment 4*
 - MS-Mathematics
 - PHD-Mathematics

- Interdisciplinary Degree Program: Water Management and Hydrological Science
 - *Attachment 5*
 - MS-Water Management and Hydrological Science
 - MWS-Water Management and Hydrological Science
 - PHD-Water Management and Hydrological Science
- [Gleason] Introduction
 - *Ad hoc* Graduate and Professional Council meeting in August 2022 conditionally approved several requests
 - Determined that memoranda were lacking in explanation of how scores would be used by departments in evaluation of applicants
 - Additional guidance to be provided by Graduate and Professional School as to expectations for future request memoranda
 - October 2022 memoranda will be last subject to previous guidelines and anything evaluated after will be required to meet higher standard has put forward by the Graduate and Professional Council
 - [Walker] approved for one year and departments must resubmit by 31 March 2023
 - [Reed/Gleason/Walker] applies to 2022-2023 recruiting cycle, Summer and Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 admissions only
- Discussion
 - [Garey] questions regarding the MIA-International Affairs
 - Is there a required or stated minimum GPA for which someone would be considered for the program?
 - Memo stated that they advise applicants to submit GRE/GMAT scores, but also says they are requiring testing scores for applicants with 3.2 GPA *only* – may be a contradiction
 - [Walker] application platforms cannot enforce those kinds of requirements/exceptions and so evaluation committees would need to enforce that sort of rule
 - [Garey] seems it would be best to either require GRE/GMAT for all applicants or none
 - [Delvo] programs which do not require or allow for a waiver for all or selected applicants can have the testing requirement be hidden from reviewers
 - School of Architecture memoranda
 - [Tong] both provided a very thorough overview of how standardized test scores will be used by the departments and may serve as an example of what the Graduate and Professional School is expecting from future requests

- [Reed] serve to balance out more subjective items for review, and departments were encouraged to provide substantive details on the use in review processes
 - [Walker/Reed] provides opportunity for students from lower-ranked institutions or with other metrics which are below their peers; allows for a more holistic view
 - [Reed/Criscitiello/Walker] while memo meets new guidance, will still be approved for only one year and expected to provide information on experience with use of scores
- **Approved**
 - Construction Science
 - Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning
 - Mathematics
 - Water Management and Hydrological Science
 - *Held for further review: International Affairs*
- 2. Preliminary Examination Second Failure Procedure – Attachment 6**
- Introduction
 - [Gleason] initial draft of rewrite was introduced at the September 2022 Graduate and Professional Council meeting and discussed at the recent Graduate Operations Committee meeting
 - [Smith] edits based upon feedback received at both meetings
 - Discussion
 - [Bryk] Agriculture and Life Sciences posed a series of questions to refine language
 - [Smith] if departments want to add more strict guidelines that would be acceptable, but not required for all programs
 - New language clarifies that first failure means only one committee member may dissent concerning allowance of re-examination
 - Determination of “adequate time” to make up retake remains up to the advisory committee, student, and department
 - One final change to first failure language made to align with student rules regarding recommendations of scholastic deficiency
 - [Reed/Walker/Smith] statement regarding the second failure should contain more imperative language
 - Approved (with recommended editorial change)
- 3. Graduate Committee Faculty Qualification Exception (Agriculture and Life Sciences) – Attachment 7**
- Introduction
 - [Gleason] Guidelines for Graduate Committee Faculty include set requirements for each faculty category

- Academic Professional Track faculty qualifications require that a prospective nominee – to hold a chair or co-chair role – must have previously served as a member on student advisory committees at Texas A&M or another academic institution, or hold a graduate administrative position
- Exceptions to the minimum qualifications may be requested as part of a letter from departments, program chairs, or college/school deans
- Discussion
 - [Bryk] due to the requirements, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences would nominate APT faculty to serve as a member and then upgrade his role soon after the initial advisory committee met
 - [Gleason] requesting individual exceptions in letters of support are not uncommon; the Graduate and Professional School largely defers to departments in the enforcement of Graduate Committee Faculty guidelines
 - [Walker] College of Engineering regularly nominates APT faculty as member-only and then immediately upgrades membership roles
 - [Bryk] will largely apply to Extension faculty and maintain high standards for nominees to the Graduate Committee Faculty – higher than required by the guidelines
 - [Irby/Bryk] will apply to all master’s and doctoral advisory committee members
 - [Tong/Bryk] APT faculty without a research appointment could potentially advise non-thesis master’s or Master of Agriculture students, but not all would be expected to dedicate a required percentage to student advisory committees
- Approved
- 4. Curricular Review Procedures (Master’s and Doctoral Curricular Review Committee)**
 - Introduction
 - [Gleason] Master’s and Doctoral Curricular Review Committee has been discussing the need to a reconsideration of the process for evaluating course proposals for the Graduate and Professional Council
 - [Walker] committee has been reviewing courses in a very detailed manner
 - Many syllabi are generally light on information
 - Those intending to create or add a distance modality have not provided sufficient detail on how that will operate
 - Many common issues have been noted over the past several months
 - Committee is in need of an understanding of what typical courses from different disciplines may require
 - Issues with learning outcomes not meeting the university standards
 - Discussion (1:27:35)

CONSENT AGENDA (Approved)

1. New Courses

[IMED 944: Hepatology Inpatient](#)

[IMED 965: Neurology Inpatient](#)

[MEID 835: Health Systems Science - Case Management, Social Determinants of Health, and Hospital Throughput](#)

[MPAT 808: Cytogenomics](#)

[MPED 834: Pediatric Combined Inpatient and Emergency Department](#)

[MPED 849: Inpatient Pediatric Hematology/Oncology](#)

[SURG 878: Colon and Rectal Surgery](#)

[SURG 888: Neurosurgery and Clinical Neurosciences Blended](#)

2. Program Changes

[MS-SDSC: Master of Science in Statistical Data Science](#)

COURSES

1. Course Changes

[MHUM 815: Essentials of Leadership](#) (Held for further discussion and review)

[PHEO 605: Chemical Hazard Exposure](#) (Approved)

[PHEO 610: Toxicology in Public Health](#) (Approved)

[PHEO 630: Environmental/Occupational Diseases](#) (Approved)

[PHEO 650: Risk Assessment I](#) (Approved)

[PHPM 653: Health Economics and Insurance](#) (Approved, with edits to syllabus)

[PHPM 681: Seminar](#) (Approved, with edits to syllabus)

[SOPH 670: Global Public Health Systems and Practice Experiences](#) (Approved)

[STAT 650: Statistical Foundation for Data Science](#) (Approved, with edits to syllabus)

[VTPP 645: Practice of Evaluating Human Health Risks of Chemicals](#) (Approved, with edits to syllabus)

[VTPP 670: Advanced Toxicology](#) (Approved, with edits to syllabus)

2. New Courses

[IMED 940: Ambulatory Cardiology](#) (Tabled for further discussion and review)

[IMED 948: Palliative Care Inpatient](#) (Tabled for further discussion and review)

[IMED 963: Neurology Outpatient](#) (Tabled for further discussion and review)

[IMED 967: Developing Illness Script for COVID-19 - A Reflective Inquiry](#) (Tabled for further discussion and review)

[IMED 972: Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine](#) (Tabled for further discussion and review)

[MATH 632: A Transition to Graduate Level Mathematics](#)

[MEID 834: Health Systems Science - Appreciation of Hospital Operations](#) (Tabled for further discussion and review)

[PHPM 636: Project Management in Health Systems](#)

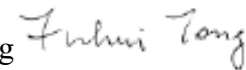
[SURG 886: Otolaryngology Acting Internship](#) (Tabled for further discussion and review)

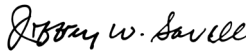
[VIBS 698: Gene, Cell, and Molecular Therapies](#) (Rolled back to VIBS)

Attachment 7

October 6, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fuhui Tong 
Interim Associate Provost and Dean
School of Graduate and Professional Studies

FROM: Jeffrey W. Savell 
Vice Chancellor and Dean
Agriculture and Life Sciences

SUBJECT: Request for exception to minimum requirements for Academic Professional Track faculty to serve as committee member

College of Agriculture and Life Science faculty with academic professional track (APT) titles are often asked to provide mentoring and training to masters and doctoral students in their departments and to serve on graduate committees. In many cases, these faculty are competent to direct and advise graduate students. For this reason, I request a blanket exception for APT faculty in the College of Agriculture and Life Science to be allowed to serve as chair or co-chair on graduate committees for graduate degrees administered in the College of Agriculture and Life Science without the requirement to have previously served on a graduate student advisory committee. All other requirements for chair and co-chair must still be met.

cc.
Patricia Klein
Mary Bryk

Approved by the Graduate and Professional Council on Thursday 13 October 2022.