

University Graduate Council
March 31, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Present: Eric Berlatsky, A&L; Mahyar Shirazi, Medicine; Anita Pennathur, Business; Paul Peluso, Education - UGC Chair; Ali Danesh, Education; Mihaela Cardei, Engineering; Manny Gonzalez, CSWCJ; Dawn Froot, Library; Christopher Beetle, Science; Marianne Porter, Science; Kassadi Smith, GPSA (on behalf of Karina Cruz).

Absent: Carla Calarge, A&L; Francisco Presuel-Moreno, Engineering; David Newman, Nursing; Karina Cruz, GPSA.

Others Present: Brian Farrell, Graduate College; Robert Stackman, Graduate College; Jan Macko, Graduate College; William Kalies, Science; Debra Szabo, Academic Affairs/Provost's Office; Ken Johnson, College of Business; Chul Woo Yoo, College of Business; Ravi Behara, College of Business; Mark Kohlbeck, College of Business; Eric Chiang, College of Business; Tamara Dinev, College of Business.

- I.** The UGC meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m. by UGC Chair, Paul Peluso.
- II.** No announcements.
- III.** The minutes from the UGC Meeting held on March 3, 2021 were unanimously approved by the Council.
- IV.** Curricula items from GPC meeting held on March 24, 2021 submitted by GPC Chair, Chris Beetle, for approval by UGC to move forward to Senate Steering meeting on April 15, 2021.
 - A. Chris highlighted three (3) curricula items, indicated below, that were discussed in depth during the March 24th GPC meeting and recommended they be placed on the Action Agenda for the April 15th UFS Steering Meeting.
 1. College of Business: New Program Request for the MS in Business Analytics
 - a. This should be placed on the Action Agenda. Due to this being a new program request, it was felt that additional discussion by UFS Steering was warranted.
 - i. Motion and second made; approved unanimously by UGC.
 2. College of Business: Program Change Request for the PhD in Business Administrations
 - a. This should be placed on the Action Agenda. Due to the amount of changes being made it was felt that additional discussion by UFS Steering was warranted.
 - i. Motion and second made; approved unanimously by UGC.
 3. College of Engineering: New Combined Degree Program for the BS in Mechanical Engineering to the MS in Artificial Intelligence
 - a. This should be placed on the Action Agenda. Due to leveling course language it was felt this needed further discussion by UFS Steering.

- i. Motion and second made; approved unanimously by UGC.
 - B. Additionally, these two (2) items should be place on the Action Agenda.
 - 1. College of Business: New Course Proposal for ISM7405: Advanced Business Analytics & New Course Proposal for ISM7886: Big Data Research Methods
 - a. These items should be placed on the Action Agenda. Due to late submission of supporting memos for both it was felt that additional discussion by UFS Steering was warranted.
 - b. UGC reviewed the supporting memos and was satisfied with them. Recommended they be placed back on Consent Agenda for the April 15th UFS Steering Meeting.
 - i. Motion and second made; approved unanimously by UGC to place back on Consent Agenda.
 - C. All other curricula items will remain on the Consent Agenda.
 - 1. Motion and second made; approved unanimously by UGC.
 - D. Paul Peluso brought up the point that New Combined Degree Program requests generally would go on the Action Agenda but, based on Chris’ position that they are all fairly straight-forward, they will remain on the Consent Agenda.
- V. Additional Discussion Items
 - A. Graduate College Governance Document
 - 1. Discrepancies in the Faculty list are being reconciled before we move forward.
 - 2. Chris suggested timing the vote to close after the April UFS meeting to allow colleges to get the word out and drum up votes.
 - B. Update pertaining to Gender Neutral bathrooms on campus
 - 1. Paul let UGC know that this is being looked at and he will keep this council updated on the progress.
 - 2. Marianne Porter: James Capp and Stacy Volnick are looking at this as well and are determining if there are any restrooms on campus that can be modified to gender neutral status.
 - C. Senate Update
 - 1. Both President and Provost spoke at the last Senate meeting regarding the budget.
 - a. There are currently two (2) versions: 1 in the House and 1 in the Senate.
 - i. 1 is bad for FAU; the other is marginally bad for FAU!
 - b. We hope to receive further updates at the April 26th Senate meeting.
 - 2. Space Policy: Still “alive and kicking”!
 - a. Check your email for any updates.
 - 3. Chris Beetle: Brought up the bill currently going through the Florida state legislature regarding recording in classroom.
 - a. This bill goes to the floor for a vote on Thursday, April 1, 2021.
 - b. It’s too late to do anything this academic year but UGC should consider the impact of this legislation sooner rather than later next year.
 - i. Will this negatively impact our ability to deliver world-class education?

- ii. All faculty might want to consider adding wording to syllabi expressly forbidding the sharing of copyrighted or proprietary information without consent.

D. International Application Deadline discussion

1. Additional wording has been added to catalog language advising students to check with their embassy regarding processing time for visa paperwork.
2. Chris Beetle: We should be even more explicit and let students know that these deadlines are FAU's dates and some country's times may be even longer.
 - a. Motion and second to move on the Senate.
 - i. Approved by UGC.

E. Graduate Dean's Report

1. Deadline for GPC/UGC
 - a. Make faculty aware that as we near the end of the academic year, they should get curricula items submitted sooner rather than later.
2. GRE/GMAT Waiver Extension Approved
 - a. Emails will be going out to programs to either opt-in or opt-out.
3. Combined Degree Programs
 - a. Graduate College will work on a template to provide consistent cross-walk wording for these programs.
 - b. Re-vamping of the Pathways program is being headed by Austen Canonica.

VI. Roundtable

A. Chris and Anita are on a task force to look at the process for submitting curricula items, including Combined Programs.

1. A draft of this process should be ready to go to the Senate at the April 26th meeting.
2. This will combine Under-graduate and Graduate in the same form and lay-out a clear path/checklist for this process.

B. Paul Peluso: Does UGC work well in a virtual environment?

1. Could it be virtual or hybrid?
2. Chris: Maybe plan on in-person but provide a virtual option for those that can't attend in-person.

VII. Meeting adjourned by UGC Chair, Paul Peluso at 3:15 p.m.

The next University Graduate Council meeting is scheduled for August, 2021.