The Graduate Council met on Wednesday, August 21, 2019, at 3:30 p.m. in 229 Terrell Hall.

Members present: Michael Cacciatore, Houjian Cai, John Campbell, Swarn Chatterjee, Joon Choi, AnneMarie Conner, Merrily Dunn, Melissa Fahmy, Georgia Harrison Hall, Victoria Hasko, Dan Johnson, Elizabeth Knight, Laura McAndrews, Kerry Oliver, Craig Osenberg, Daniel Perez, James Reap, Jennifer Samp, Robert Scott, and Shavannor Smith. Ron Walcott, Meredith Welch-Devine, Cheri Bliss, and Robin Bingham represented the Graduate School.


Associate Dean Ron Walcott called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

Minutes of the February 13, 2019, Graduate Council meeting were approved as posted on the Graduate School website.

Graduate Council Committee Reports and Action Items

A. Administrative Committee
   No business to report.

B. Appeals Committee
   Daniel Perez, Acting Chair
   Since the last report to the Graduate Council, the Appeals Committee met once on August 16, 2019. The committee members present were Merrily Dunn, Melissa Fahmy, Cindy Hahamovitch, Victoria Hasko, Dan Johnson, Christof Meile, and Daniel Perez. Ron Walcott, Meredith Welch-Devine, and Cheri Bliss from the Graduate School were present. The committee met to hear one dismissal appeal. The appeal was upheld.

C. Program Committee
   James Reap, Chair
   Since the last meeting of the Graduate Council, the Program Committee has reviewed and approved two (2) proposals. The Program Committee would like to bring the following action items to the Graduate Council for its approval.
   - **Action Items:** From the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, a request to consolidate the ICON major (change the name of the major in “integrative Conservation and Geography” to “Integrative Conservation (PhD)”); deactivate three PhD programs; and add four areas of emphasis under the new name). **Approved.**
   - **Action Item:** From the College of Environment and Design, a request to change the name of the Master of Environmental Planning (MEPD) degree to a Master of Urban Planning (MUPD) degree. **Approved.**
D. Strategic Planning Committee
   No business to report.

Old Business
No old business.

New Business
Dr. Anne Shaffer, UGA graduate program faculty representative on the USG Student Health Insurance (SHIP) Advisory Council, gave a recap of meetings. So far, the Council has only met two times. The USG heard the concerns, got consultation and overview of student health insurance in general. Information regarding premiums went out earlier this time in May 2019. Student premiums went up slightly, but spouse premiums went down (now equivalent to student premiums). The United Healthcare Plan is comprised mainly of undergraduates, where participation is voluntary. Graduate student participation is mandatory. Dependents are expensive, so other schools are starting to drop dependents (but not USG schools). Ideas are to increase enrollment to decrease premiums, possibly by making health insurance mandatory for undergraduates like it is for graduates. Dr. Shaffer is willing to share concerns and informed the Council they could communicate concerns/questions to her.

Information Items

Curriculum Report: The Graduate School has approved 29 new courses, 43 course revisions, and 11 deletions.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.