College of Education Graduate Programs Committee Meeting Meeting Minutes Wednesday

March 19, 2025
12:30 p.m. – Sub Committee Meetings

1 PM GPC Convenes

Zoom Meeting
https://fau-edu.zoom.us/j/83942327590?pwd=TMOdBWmkSwEd4j0bzrPP4NmRaut2vr

12:30 – Sub Committees - (Sub-Committees met via separate zoom links.)
1 pm COE GPC

Call to order: The COE-GPC meeting was called to order via Zoom Videoconferencing at 1:00 pm on March 19, 2025

In Attendance: Maysaa Barakat (ELRM), Katie Friesen (ELRM), Sharon Darling (DSE), Lisa Finnegan (DSE), Christy Timm Fulkerson (CSD), Adriana Labarta (CE), Elizabeth Villares Sacks (CE, Chair of GPC), Sabrina Sembiante (C&I), Michelle Vaughan-McGovern (C&I), Deborah Shepherd (Dean's Representative)

Quick recap

The meeting focused on reviewing and approving meeting minutes, curriculum committee recommendations, and petitions for waiving recency of credit and GRE admission requirements. The discussion also covered updates from the Graduate Council meeting, the dissertation review process, and the importance of students utilizing tools for dissertation verification. Lastly, the meeting touched on the potential impact of a new policy on student admissions and the need for faculty input on resources for dissertation verification.

1. Roll call, convening and announcements

2. Review and approval of prior minutes
   - ❖ Dr. Timm Fulkerson motioned to approve February minutes; Dr. Finnegan seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Recorder for Minutes
   - ❖ Dr. Barakat volunteered to take this meeting's minutes.

4. Curriculum Committee Report and Recommendations: The curriculum committee brought two curriculum items forward with a motion to approve:

- ❖ The first recommendation was for a new course in early childhood education, which included a course catalog change and a certificate.
- ❖ The second recommendation was for a new GPA calculation request from the department of counselor education, which would change the GPA requirement to be based on the students' overall undergraduate degree GPA instead of the last 60 credits
- ❖ There was a conversation about the rationale for the GPA change and how it would affect the application process.
- ❖ There was a question regarding conditional approval depending on a GPA of 3:00 within the first 9 credits in the graduate program
- ❖ The motion to approve both curriculum items passed with one abstention.

5. Student Petitions Committee Report and Recommendations
   - ❖ Six Petitions from three departments were reviewed.
   - ❖ CE- Two petitions. One to waive recency of credit for two courses, one to waive GRE as an admission requirement. The Petitions Committee recommends approval for both.
   - ❖ DCI- One request to waive continuous enrollment. The Petitions Committee recommends approval.
   - ❖ EDRM-Three petitions. Two to waive recency of credit. One to waive the university's policy regarding Graduate Teaching Assistant benefits. The Petitions Committee recommended approval.
   - ❖ The COE-GPC accepts the motion recommendation to approve from the Petitions Committee, approving all petitions unanimously

6. University Graduate Council/University Graduate Programs Committee Updates
   - ❖ Graduate Council Updates and Student Opportunities
   - ❖ Dr. Villares Sacks provides updates from the Graduate Council meeting regarding the Ed Leadership and Special Ed proposals which were approved and will be presented at the next Senate meeting. She encourages representatives to attend to address any questions.
   - ❖ Dr. Villares Sacks also mentions that Bob Stockman is seeking student volunteers to review the Ed Vision graduate program platform.
   - ❖ The Graduate Student Conference will be held at FAU on April 7-8, featuring the state 3MT competition. Dr. Villares Sacks notes that the recent Graduate Research Day had low attendance, prompting discussions about potentially combining it with other events in the future to increase participation.

7. Dissertation Review Process Clarification
   - ❖ Dr. Villares Sacks clarified the dissertation review process, explaining that while the College of Education traditionally focused on formatting and technical issues, she has been providing more detailed feedback based on APA guidelines.
   - ❖ Content-related suggestions are presented as recommendations, and the final decisions rest with the committee chair, department chair, and students.

- ❖ There are discrepancies and departments use different terminology for certain sections, such as "method" versus "methodology," but these are not critical issues.
- ❖ The importance of clarifying the responsibilities of dissertation committees and chairs in this process was mentioned
- ❖ There are available Tools for Students, and it is important that they understand and utilize these tools for dissertation verification in order to streamline the process for department chairs and the Dean's office.
- ❖ Dr. Villares Sacks shared resources and checklists that students can use to ensure their work meets graduation deadlines.
- ❖ There was a question about faculty input on these resources, to which Dr. Villares Sacks explained that the checklist emerged from the Dean's office and was disseminated to department chairs for modification and use within their departments.

8. Adjourn
    - ❖ Meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.

Next steps

• Department chairs to disseminate the dissertation review checklist to committee chairs and amend as needed for their department.
• Dr. Darling to send information about the specialist student who made it to the 3MT Competition finals to Josephine for the college website.
• Elizabeth to address the dissertation review checklists with Dr. Silverman and at the next executive committee meeting.
• Department chairs to provide names of students to Bob Stockman for the EdVision platform review process.
• Elizabeth to follow up on making Adobe licenses available to all faculty for electronic signatures.
• Graduate Council to work on combining the Graduate Research Day with the 3MT Competition event over the summer.
• Mikaela to look back over the last few semesters to see how many students would be impacted by the GPA calculation change for counselor education admissions.
• Counselor education department to implement Academic Progression Plans for students admitted with less than a 3.0 GPA.