

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2023  
MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL**

The Graduate Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, February 1, 2023 via Zoom. Chair Elizabeth King called the meeting to order at 3:30.

**Members Present:** Drs. Abernathy, Barreda (for Kageyama), Beckham, Bledsoe, Buyurgan, Cardin, Chang, Chen, Choi, Christian, Davis, DeBode, Derayati, Finn, Given, Gouzie, Hass, Hines, S. Hoelscher, Horine, Hulme, Jamos, King, G. Masterson, Murray, Onyango, Panzer, Penkalski, Schick, Smith, Stanton, Su, Swan, Wang, Ward, Wehrman and Woodard; Ms. Cook, Pippa and Williams

**Ex Officio Members Present:** Dr. C. Hoelscher, Hudson and J. Masterson

**Members Absent:** Drs. Barffour, Friske, Kaatz, Sakidja and Seay; Mr. Sitapara and Moser

**Guests:** Drs. Chakraborty, Larson, C. Masterson, Roberts, Rozell, White-Minnis; Mr. Frerichs

***Approval of Minutes***

A motion was made by Dr. Hoelscher and seconded by Ms. Cook to approve the minutes from the December 2022 meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.

***Committee Reports***

Report of the Council Chair – Elizabeth King

Dr. King announced that beginning with this meeting the procedure for the approval of committee reports will change. The Chair of the committee will still give the report of the committee. But the, the Council Chair will ask for discussion and call for the vote.

It is time for Christy to schedule rooms for next year's Council meetings if they are needed. Dr. King asked for Council members to put in the chat function of Zoom if they would prefer to have meeting via Zoom or in person. There was a very dominant consensus for meeting next year to be held via Zoom.

Report of the Graduate Dean – Julie Masterson

- A. Announcements: For a complete listing of announcement and deadlines, see the “*Graduate College Update*” at <http://graduate.missouristate.edu/facultystaff/Council.htm>.
- B. SP23 Enrollment. SP23 enrollment showed a decrease in degree seeking graduate students (master's, specialist and doctorate students). However, certificates were up quite a bit. This is largely because of two innovative certificate programs that are collaborations among the College of Education, College of Natural and Applied Sciences and Graduate Interdisciplinary Programs.
- C. University realignment/restructuring. There will be many opportunities in the next few months to give input regarding the realignment and restructuring of the University. Please watch for these announcements and give your suggestions and feedback. They will be read and considered.

Report of the Graduate Student Senate –Carrisa Hoelscher for Dhruv Sitapara

The GSS By-laws were approved and the 17 Senators have been elected to represent all colleges. There is a Trivia Night scheduled in February. On March 3, there will be a Town Hall meeting for graduate students. This will be offered in person but will have a zoom available as well. Please encourage all of your graduate students to attend this meeting.

Report of the Graduate Faculty Membership Committee – Abdullah Jamos

No report.

Report of the Graduate Grievance Committee – Amber Abernathy

No report.

Report of the Graduate Scholarship Committee – Amy Hulme

The deadline for the Ford and Boritzki Endowed Scholarship and the Masterson Family Research Award is March 1. Please remind your students to apply.

Report of the Graduate Screening Committee – Melissa Penkalski

Dr. King stated that 2 proposals on the agenda had been amended after they were recommended by the Screening Committee. The committee was aware of these changes. For the New Course Proposal for RCH 700, Essentials of Statistics – OTE 732 is being removed in the description as a course equivalent at the request of the OT department. For the Course Change Proposal for NUR 772, Advanced Research Methods in Nursing - - CSD 702 is being removed in the description as a course equivalent at the request of the CSD department.

A motion was made by Ms. Cook and seconded by Dr. DeBode to accept this changes.

The following Proposals were approved:

Program Changes

- DOT – change program description, accreditation, admission requirement, retention requirements, and course requirements
- MOT – change retention requirement and course requirements
- MSN/FNP – change course requirements
- MSN/Population Health Leadership – change course requirements
- MSN/NE – change course requirements
- MS, Dietetics & Nutrition – change accreditation, admission requirements, retention requirements, and course requirements
- Dietetic Internship certificate – change program goals, admission requirements, program requirements and change hours from 18 to 16

## New Course

DTN 770 Leadership in Nutrition and Dietetics  
ECO 655 Resource and Energy Economics  
HST 765 African History Readings  
MUS 622 Keyboard Literature I  
MUS 641 Keyboard Harmony  
OTE 731 Essentials of Research Methods  
RCH 700 Essentials of Statistics  
RCH 710 Statistics for the Health Professions  
RCH 720 Essentials of Research Methods  
RCH 730 Research Methods for the Health Professions

## Course Changes

BMS 645 Clinical Gross Anatomy – change description and prerequisite  
DTN 743 Food Service Management Practicum – change hours  
DTN 744 Practicum in Area of Concentration – change hours and description  
DTN 762 Advanced Population Health Nutrition II – change periodicity  
MED 681 Issues in Media Ethics – change title and description  
MUS 623 Keyboard Literature – change title, description and periodicity  
NUR 772 Advanced Research Methods in Nursing – change title and description  
OTE 620 Psychosocial Perspectives in Occupational Therapy Practice – change prerequisite  
OTE 732 Applied Research Methods in Healthcare – change hours and description  
OTE 820 Conditions I: Cognitive Dysfunction – change title  
OTE 832 Applied Research Methods in Healthcare – change description and hours

## Course Deletion

BMS 616 Transmission Electron Microscopy  
BMS 785 Histology and Tissue Biology

## ***Unfinished Business***

The report from the ad hoc committee regarding Grading and Credit Point Systems was distributed to the Council prior to the meeting. The first report dealt with the current policy regarding the issue of a grade of C- not counting toward a graduate degree. Because plus/minus grading is not consistent across campus, students could earn the same percentage score in two courses or two sections of the same course, and one would count toward their degree and the other would not.

### Example

- Student B scores 70% in BasketWeaving 702, receiving a C and 3 credit hours
- Student A scores 73% in BasketWeaving 701, receiving a C- and 0 credit hours

The committee recommends that the policy be changed to allow C- grades to count toward the graduate degree. This would be a revision to policy 3.19-9.

The discussion that followed included several faculty members stating that often faculty in their departments were not aware that a C- could not count toward a student's degree. There was discussion

about the differences in the cumulative GPA (which may affect eligibility for assistantships and scholarships) and the GPA of the courses used in the degree audit, which must average 3.0 in order to graduate. The suggested change from the committee would not impact these metrics, nor other policies related to grades such as program dismissal.

Dr. King called for the vote and the Council unanimously approved that a C- should be allowed to count toward a degree.

The second, related issue that the ad hoc committee reviewed was the Grade Table (policy 3.04-31: Grading and the Credit Point system). This grade table reflects the implications of grades for undergraduate students but contradicts the implications for graduate students. The discussion that followed showed widespread agreement that a second table should be developed, once the C- recommendation is addressed.

Dr. Michael Hudson, Faculty Senate Chair, recommended that both issues (C-, grade interpretation chart) could go to Faculty Senate as an action item after the Graduate Council makes the final recommendations on both issues.

Dr. Smith and the ad hoc committee will now work with Dr. King and Dr. Masterson to determine the next steps.

### ***New Business***

None.

### ***Open Mic***

None.

### ***Adjournment***

The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

The next meeting of the Graduate Council will be on March 1 via Zoom.

Elizabeth King, Chairperson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth King".