

Graduate Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 24, 2010 Present: Dr. James Badger, Jill Brady (non-voting), Dr. Michelle Byrne, Dr. Patricia Donat (Chair), Andy David, Dr. Teresa Fletcher, Dr. Barry Friedman, Dr. Craig Greathouse, Dr. Dawn Hayes, Dr. Stefanie Palma, Dr. Richard Oates, Mark Perry, Susan Perry (non-voting), Dr. Marina Slemmons, Dr. Linda Roberts-Betsch, Dr. Russell Teasley (for Dr. Mark Jordan), Dr. Shane Webb (Faculty Associate), and Denise Young

Meeting commenced at 3:30 pm.

- I. Approval of February 10, 2010 Minutes
A motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Dr. Palma, and the minutes were approved.

- II. Announcement of Course and Program Changes
 - A. School of Education – Dr. Oates
 1. Program Suspensions – Master of Education with a Major in Special Education and Master of Arts in Teaching with a Major in Special Education have been suspended for new students effective Summer 2010. Students currently enrolled will be able to complete their programs at North Georgia. The suspensions will be revisited for accepting new students for Summer of 2011.
 2. Program Revision – Master of Education with a Major Physical Education to a Master of Science with a Major in Physical Education. Revision will allow a master-level education program without a teaching certification requirement. Current students in the MED program will have the choice of completing the MED no later than May 2012 or transfer successfully completed MED courses into the MS program without penalty and complete the MS degree. The MED program will be deactivated no later than June 2012. The 30-hour MS degree will be delivered fully online. On a motion by Dr. Oates, second by Dr. Greathouse, Graduate Council approved the proposed program revision and graduate bulletin material. The revision is now before the Board of Regents.
 3. Program Conversion – Master of Education with a Major in Middle Grades Education to Master of Education in Teaching and Learning (6-12). The proposed conversion will result in a 36-hour program delivered fully online with a special education curriculum theme embedded which should result in regaining North Georgia's declining market share of middle education level graduate students. Graduate bulletin material will be available for review and acceptance by Graduate Council Summer 2010. This proposal is also before the Board of Regents.

 - B. School of Science & Health Professions/Nursing – Dr. Slemmons
The following courses were deleted in order to “clean up” nursing courses no longer offered or that have been renumbered and should be removed from Banner – NURS 5010, NURS 5502, NURS 6030, NURS 7030, NURS 7050, and NURS 7140.

C. School of Arts & Letters

1. Community Counseling Program – Dr. Fletcher informed Graduate Council that the program is preparing to submit a request for substantive change to the Board of Regents and SACS. The change from a 48-hour program to 60-hour program is required by the program’s accrediting agency CACREP. The change in program will also result in a change of degree to a Master of Science with a Major in Clinical and Mental Health Counseling. If the proposals are approved, the 60-hour program will be effective Summer 2011 with currently enrolled students completing the 48-hour MS in Community Counseling and not able to transfer to the 60-hour program.
2. Master of Music – Mark Perry (for Andy David) presented the graduate bulletin section for the master of music program that will be admitting students for Summer 2010. The program does not require a minimum gpa or an entrance test score. An undergraduate degree in music or music education is required. On a motion by Dr. Palma, second by Dr. Slemmons, the Graduate Council approved the graduate bulletin section for the program.

III. New Business

The Center for Language Education – Dr. Badger informed Graduate Council that as part of system’s and institution’s goals to attract more international students, The Center for Language Education has been developed and will offer courses at North Georgia. This program is a full-time, 15-week English immersion program for participants seeking to advance their English language fluency. The program is designed to be an alternative for the TOEFL required for applicants whose native language is not English. The program will be offered each semester, face-to-face delivery, 12 hours, not for college credit. Dr. Badger stated that North Georgia’s Undergraduate Admissions has approved satisfactory completion of this program in lieu of a TOEFL exam score as an undergraduate admission requirement. Dr. Badger requested that graduate programs accept satisfactory completion of the CLE program as an option to the TOEFL exam as well. After some discussion, it was decided that Dr. Badger would email to Graduate Council Members the course descriptions so that council members could present the program to their faculty for a decision. Some programs will also have to check with their accrediting agencies. The CLE program as an alternative option for the TOEFL may be for all graduate programs or by program. Decisions will be presented either at a summer electronic meeting or at the first regularly scheduled Graduate Council meeting of the 2011-2012 academic year.

IV. Old Business

Graduate Student Survey – Dr. Donat

Members reviewed line by line the developed graduate student survey, making suggestions and edits. It is currently available for final review as a google document. Dr. Webb will create an Instant Survey that will be sent to Graduate Council members as a trial with the final survey emailed to all graduate students by April 1. The survey will be administered on an approximately three-year rotation to prevent survey “burnout.”

V. Announcements

Dr. Oates requested a called, virtual Summer 2010 Graduate Council Meeting be available to address new courses, graduate bulletin sections, The Center for Language Education, etc. It

was agreed that items that need action or a vote should be posted on the N drive in the Graduate Council/Summer 2010 folder two weeks prior.

Dr. Linda Roberts-Betsch thanked the Council for its continued hard work and expressed that she had enjoyed working with its members through the years and wished everyone much success with continued growth in graduate programs. Dr. Roberts-Betsch will be retiring from North Georgia following the end of the Spring 2010 term.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Perry