The Graduate Council met on Thursday, March 19, 2020, at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Members present: Michael Cacciatore, Houjian Cai, Joon Choi, AnnaMarie Conner, Merrily Dunn, Melissa Fahmy, Tim Foutz, Cindy Hahamovitch, Georgia Harrison Hall, John Hulland, Dan Johnson, Elizabeth Knight, Laura McAndrews, Christof Meile, Kerry Oliver, Pamela Orpinas, Craig Osenberg, James Reap, Jennifer Samp, Robert Scott, Shane Singh, Shavannor Smith, and Elizabeth St. Pierre. Ron Walcott, Meredith Welch-Devine, Cheri Bliss, and Olivia Myers represented the Graduate School. Sierra Francois represented the Graduate Student Association.

Members absent: John Campbell, Swarn Chatterjee, Victoria Hasko, Kristen Navara, Daniel Perez, Leara Rhodes, and Ming Zhang.

Associate Dean Ron Walcott called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

Minutes of the January 23, 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
Cindy Hahamovitch, Committee Chair

Since the last report to the Graduate Council, the Appeals Committee has met twice: once on February 3, 2020 and again on March 4, 2020. On February 3, 2020 the committee members present were Cindy Hahamovitch, Yoon Joon Choi, Melissa Fahmy, Victoria Hasko, Daniel Johnson, Laura McAndrews, Christof Meile, and Leara Rhodes. Meredith Welch-Devine and Olivia Myers from the Graduate School were present. The committee met to hear two appeals. The first appeal was a grade appeal; the committee voted in favor of the student in changing their final grade. The second appeal was a program dismissal appeal; the committee voted to deny the appeal.

On March 4, 2020, the committee members present were Cindy Hahamovitch, Kevin Burke (substitute), Yoon Joon Choi, Melissa Fahmy, Daniel Johnson, and Christof Meile. Meredith Welch-Devine and Olivia Myers from the Graduate School were present. The committee met to hear two appeals. The first appeal was a Graduate School dismissal appeal; the committee voted to reinstate the student. The second appeal was also a Graduate School dismissal; the committee voted to reinstate the student.
C. Program Committee
   James Reap, Committee Chair

Since the last meeting of the Graduate Council, the Program Committee has reviewed and approved four proposals. The committee members present were James Reap, Houjian Cai, Swarn Chatterjee, John Hulland, Elizabeth Knight, Kristen Navara Jennifer Samp, Shavanner Smith, Elizabeth St. Pierre, and Ming Zhang. Meredith Welch-Devine, Cheri Bliss, and Olivia Myers from the Graduate School were present. The Program Committee would like to bring the following action items to the Graduate Council for its approval.

- **Action Item:** From the MFE College of Education, a request to terminate the Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Psychology (PhD EPSY), Gwinnett Campus only. *Approved*
- **Action Item:** From the MFE College of Education, a request to terminate the Masters of Science in Kinesiology (MS KINS), Gwinnett Campus only. *Approved*
- **Action Item:** From the MFE College of Education, a proposal to offer an online Graduate Certificate in Online Teaching and Learning. *Approved*
- **Action Item:** From the College of Environment and Design, a proposal to offer a non-thesis option of the Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA NT) degree. *Approved*

D. Strategic Planning Committee
   Georgia Harrison Hall, Committee Chair

Since the last meeting of the Graduate Council, the Strategic Planning Committee has met once. Members present: Michael Cacciatore, Georgia Harrison Hall, Kerry Oliver, Pamela Orpinas. Present from the Graduate School: Ron Walcott, Cheri Bliss, Robin Bingham. The Strategic Planning Committee would like to bring the following action items to the Graduate Council for its approval.

- **Action Item:** Revision of Tuition Waiver Policy. *Approved*
- **Action Item:** Revision of Dismissal Policy. *Approved*

Old Business
No old business.

New Business
Cindy Hahamovitch addressed the issue of graduate students who are being displaced from University Housing and the process graduate students go through in order to stay on campus. Ron Walcott stated that he and Linda Kasper, Director of University Housing, have been working diligently together to make sure graduate students don’t experience too much of a burden during this unsettling time. He also stressed that graduate students working assistantships are strongly urged to telecommunicate, if possible, and students should be working with their direct supervisors for guidance.

Discussion about the qualifications for and the distribution of the Graduate School Emergency fund were brought up. Meredith Welch-Devine informed the Council that the committee is trying
to make access to these funds more accessible for students, especially the monetary qualifications. Meredith also informed us that President Morehead has made a generous donation that would allow the Emergency Fund to support more students. At this time, students being affected by COVID-19 are a top priority.

**Information Items**
Curriculum Report: The Graduate School has approved 38 new courses, 84 course revisions, and 21 deletions.

The meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

***Next meeting: Thursday, April 9, 2020, 3:30pm, via Zoom. ***