The Graduate Council met on Wednesday, October 14, 2020, at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Members present: Jill Anderson, Suchendra Bhandarkar, Michael Cacciatore, John Campbell, Swarn Chatterjee, Joon Choi, AnnaMarie Conner, Merrily Dunn, Tim Foutz, Cari Goetcheus, Georgia Harrison Hall, Dan Johnson, Ray Kaplan, Elizabeth Knight, Kyser Lough, Laura McAndrews, Christof Meile, David Mustard, Luke Naeher, Kerry Oliver, Kaori Sakamoto, Jennifer Samp, Shane Singh, Shavannor Smith, Elizabeth St. Pierre, Seth Wenger, Catherine White, Dayton Wilde, and Ming Zhang. Ron Walcott, Meredith Welch-Devine, Robert Scott, Cheri Bliss, Robin Bingham, and Olivia Myers represented the Graduate School. Shayla Lee represented the Graduate Student Association as current president.

Members absent: Melissa Fahmy.

VP/Dean Ron Walcott called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Minutes of the September 23, 2020, Graduate Council meeting were approved as posted on the Graduate School website.

Graduate Council Committee Reports and Action Items

A. Administrative Committee
   Ron Walcott, Ex Officio Member
   No business to report.

B. Appeals Committee
   Christof Meile, Chair
   Since the last report to the Graduate Council, the Appeals Committee has met once on October 7, 2020. Members present at the October 7, 2020 meeting included Christof Meile, Jill Anderson, Swarn Chatterjee, Joon Choi, Georgia Harrison Hall, Kyser Lough, Shavannor Smith, and Ming Zhang. The Graduate School was represented by Meredith Welch-Devine, Cheri Bliss, and Olivia Myers.

   The committee met to hear two appeals. The first appeal was an admission decision appeal. The committee voted to deny the appeal and uphold the decision of the department.

   The second appeal was a Graduate School dismissal appeal. The committee voted to approve the appeal and reinstate the student.

C. Program Committee
   Liz Knight, Chair
   Since the last meeting of the Graduate Council, the Program Committee has reviewed and approved four (4) proposals. The Program Committee would like to bring the following action items to the Graduate Council for its approval.

   Action Item: From the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, a request to terminate the Master of Science (MS) in Soil, Water, and Environmental Sciences. Approved 29-0.

   Action Item: From the Mary Frances Early College of Education, a request to change the name of the Department of Mathematics and Science Education to Department of Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies Education. Approved 29-0.
Action Item: From the Mary Frances Early College of Education, a request to deactivate the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Learning, Leadership and Organization Development (LLOD) at the Gwinnett campus only. Approved 29-0.

Action Item: From the College of Pharmacy, a request to offer the existing Master of Science (M.S.) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD.) in Pharmacy program at the Augusta University campus. Approved 28-0.

D. Policy and Planning Committee
AnnaMarie Conner, Chair
The Policy and Planning Committee met on October 7, 2020. Members present were AnnaMarie Conner, Melissa Fahmy, Ray Kaplan, Laura McAndrews, Kerry Oliver, Kaori Sakamoto, Shane Singh; Shayla Lee (GSA); Ron Walcott, Bob Scott, Cheri Bliss, Robin Bingham (Graduate School).

Action Item: Revise wording re: attendance at oral comprehensive exams to clarify those able to attend outside of the student and student’s committee. Approved 27-0.

Action Item: Revise current policy regarding oral comprehensive exams to allow for flexibility in holding remotely. Approved 27-1.

Old Business
No old business.

New Business
A draft of the Graduate School Strategic Plan was briefly highlighted to show Council its current content and to advance discussion.

The Open Researcher & Contributor Identifor (ORCID) was discussed “as a way for scholars to identify and receive credit for their scholarly outputs and activities…and maintain a profile of their professional accomplishments.” The idea of making ORCID a requirement of graduate students was discussed to gain insight from Council members.

ORCID is already being used by many disciplines. It is a not-for-profit organization, so less chance for privacy concerns over other social profiling (such as LinkedIn). It is a way to capture some performance metrics and to reach out to students after they graduate, which is harder if they are outside academia. Also a way to gauge how well we are training students. Might be useful to do a survey to see who is already using ORCID. It may not be used as much in the Arts and Humanities.

Information Items
Curriculum Report: The Graduate School has approved 17 new courses, 24 course revisions, and 0 deletions.

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 11, 3:30pm, via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.