

**MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL**  
**October 11, 2023**

The Graduate Council met on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. in 327 Brooks Hall.

Members present: Sundar Bharadwaj, John Bray, Jim Conklin, AnnaMarie Conner, Kelly Dyer, Mark Eitemann, Kerstin Emerson, Abigail Grimes, Ruth Harman, Ed Kellough, Jill Manners, Cory Momany, Kristen Navara, Erik Ness, Craig Osenberg, David Peterson, Yoo-Kyoung Seock, Alison Smith, and George Vellidis. Graduate School: Ron Walcott, Anne Shaffer, Robin Bingham, and Sha-kim Craft.

Members absent: Vivian Burrell, Jennifer Elkins, Sheba Mohankumar, Jeff Mullen, Don Nelson, Scott Nelson, Jacek Siry, Phil Stancil, and Bart Wojdyski.

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

Minutes of the August 23, 2023, 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  
David Peterson, Acting Chair

Since the last report to the Graduate Council, the Appeals Committee has met once on October 6, 2023, for one dismissal appeal hearing. Committee members present were Don Nelson (Chair), John Bray, Kerstin Emerson, Jennifer Elkins, Ruth Harman, Ed Kellough, and Alison Smith. Anne Shaffer, Cheri Bliss, and Sha-kim Craft were present from the Graduate School. The appeal was due to a low GPA; the committee voted to deny the appeal and uphold the dismissal decision of the Graduate School.

C. Program Committee  
Kristen Navara, Chair

Since the last meeting of the Graduate Council, the Program Committee has reviewed and approved five proposals via Microsoft Teams. The Program Committee would like to bring the following action items to the Graduate Council for its approval.

- Action Item: From the Terry College of Business, a proposal for a new online Master of Professional Accountancy (MPAcc) degree program. *Approved 18-0-0*
- Action Item: From the Graduate School and Mary Frances Early College of Education:
  - a. A proposal to rehome the Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in University Teaching in the Mary Frances Early College of Education. *Approved 18-0-0*

b. A request to update the Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in University Teaching curriculum. *Approved 18-0-0*

▪ *Action Item:* From the Mary Frances Early College of Education Department of Lifelong Education, Administration, and Policy, a proposal to change the name of the Graduate Certificate in Transformational Leadership to the Certificate in Complexity Leadership. *Approved 19-0-0*

▪ *Action Item:* From the Mary Francis Early College of Education, a proposal to create an area of emphasis in Literacy Specialist under the EDS in Education (online campus). *Approved 19-0-0*

▪ *Action Item:* From the College of Pharmacy, a request to update the programs of study for the Master of Science degrees in Pharmacy with an emphasis in Regulatory Sciences:

- MS, Pharmacy – Thesis (online), degree code MS\_PHRM\_GWON
- MS, Pharmacy – Non-thesis (online), degree code MS\_PHRM\_GONT (often called The Project Path)

*Approved 18-0-1*

D. Policy and Planning Committee  
Yoo-Kyoung Seock, Chair

The Policy and Planning Committee met once on October 5, 2023. Members present were Yoo-Kyoung (chair), Sundar Bharadwaj, Anna Conner, Kelly Dyer, Abigail Grimes, Sheba Mohankumar, Erik Ness, and Bart Wojdyski. Present from the Graduate School were Ron Walcott, Cheri Bliss, and Robin Bingham. The committee discussed and revised the current Leave of Absence policy to include wording to meet Title IX requirements.

After presenting the revisions, discussion was held by the Council regarding the wording “adoption of a child under six years of age” applying to leave. A motion was made and seconded to remove that wording and replace with “adoption or fostering of a child”. Other revisions were left as written. *Approved 19-0-0*

**Information Items**

- A. Update in approval process for non-thesis tracks added to master’s degrees.
- B. Curriculum Report: Since April 2023, the Graduate School has approved 33 new courses, 52 course revisions, and 1 deletion.
- C. Next meeting: Wednesday, November 8, 3:30pm, 327 Brooks Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

- **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

A leave of absence provides a mechanism for students experiencing unusual circumstance to be exempt temporarily from the continuous enrollment policy. A leave of absence requires approval of the Graduate Program Coordinator and the Dean of Graduate School. A leave of absence will be granted only for good cause such as serious medical and health-related issues, major financial and employment issues; pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy and recovery therefrom, adoption or fostering of a child, child care, elder care, and other significant family issues; and other major personal circumstances that interfere with the ability to undertake graduate study. An approved leave of absence stands in lieu of registering for the minimum of 3 credits for each semester for which the leave of absence is granted. During a leave of absence, students may not use UGA facilities, resources, or services designed or intended only for enrolled students; receive a graduate assistantship, fellowship, or financial aid from the University; or take any UGA courses related to their program of study. The amount of time approved for leave of absence will not count toward time limits governing a graduate degree.

- A. **Application.** Students may apply for a leave of absence for good cause such as serious medical and health-related issues, major financial and employment issues; pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy and recovery therefrom, adoption or fostering of a child, child care, elder care, and other significant family issues; and other major personal circumstances that interfere with the ability to undertake graduate study. An approved leave of absence stands in lieu of registering for the minimum of 3 credits for each semester for which the leave of absence is granted.
- B. **Student Responsibility.** It is the student's responsibility to apply for a leave of absence in timely fashion. An approved leave of absence does not exempt students from the enrollment requirements of other programs, offices, and agencies such as the Veterans Administration, Immigration and Naturalization Service, and federal financial aid programs. Eligibility for certain types of financial aid, including graduate assistantships, requires enrollment for more credits than the Continuous Enrollment Policy.
- C. **Deadlines.** A student may apply for a leave of absence before or during any semester in which they are not registered for courses. Application for a Leave of absence must be received by the Graduate School Office of Enrollment Services on or before the last day of classes for the semester for which it is requested. A leave of absence will not be granted retroactively after the end of a semester.
- D. **Limits.** A student may request a leave of absence for one semester, two consecutive semesters, or three consecutive semesters (Summer semester included). There is a 12-month limit for any one request of leave of absence. A student may submit multiple requests for a leave of absence subject to a 3 semester limit.

To apply for a temporary leave of absence, please complete the form below.

[Complete the Form](#)