

UCGS 1/22/24 Meeting Minutes (via Zoom)

1. Chairperson Remarks

- a. Dr. Smith initiated meeting, Agenda for this meeting and Minutes from 11/20/23 meeting were approved
- b. Posthumous Degree and Marks of Achievement Policy
 - i. Guests: Mary Finn, Professor, School of Criminal Justice; Allyn Shaw, Assistant Vice President, Student Involvement & Leadership
 - ii. Attempts are being made to enhance guidance for different colleges and programs to interact appropriately with families and loved ones and to create clarity on criteria for meriting a posthumous degree or achievement so that this will be consistent across all departments and programs.
 - iii. No questions from the Committee, and the policy was approved to move forward to the Provost.
- c. Pregnancy, Childbirth and Pregnancy Related Conditions Policy
 - i. Guest: Nicole Schmidtke, OIE
 - ii. Awaiting Title 9 updates for this policy. Policy covers students and employees. Student requests should go through Title 9 Office, whereas employees use HR. Policy is approved by student union. There are some programs for providing this information to students, but Grad Program Directors should become familiar with this policy and make information available to grad students in their Program.
 - iii. After brief questions from the Committee, the policy was approved to move forward to the Provost.

2. Remarks from the Dean of the Graduate School (Pero Dagbovie)

- a. Dr. Dagbovie thanked the Committee for their service.

3. Remarks from the COGS Vice President for Internal Affairs (Samara Chamoun)

- a. In December and January, COGS passed multiple resolutions for conferences and student safety, including the proper use of pronouns, and to support students during the Palestinian Crisis.

4. University Committee on Graduate Studies Subcommittee Reports

Academic Research Policy Subcommittee (Tomas Hult)
Graduate Instruction, Employment, & Mentoring Subcommittee (TBD)
Curriculum and Program Review Committee (Tom Sharkey)

No particular business to report other than the requests below.

5. *Request to change the requirements for the Master of Arts degree in Education in the College of Education. Guest: Liz Boltz
 - a. Essentially splitting the program and cleaning up language, making sure language aligns with Grad School policy.
 - b. All in favor, no opposed, no abstentions
6. *Request to change the requirements for the Professional Program in Human Medicine leading to the Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) degree.
 - a. College will now require vaccinations as recommended by CDC for all health care workers. Minor changes to course numbers.
 - b. All in favor, no opposed, no abstentions
7. *Request to change the requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Chemistry in the Department of Chemistry. Guest: Dr. Robin DeMuth
 - a. Updating description of Chem PhD program to align with Grad School and University requirements. Agreed with previously requested changes from committee.
 - b. Questions regarding teaching requirements were clarified, including the benefits of teaching to student development, and ensuring that there are enough teaching opportunities, and clarifying the number of credits taught – these vary by course type and student position.
 - c. All in favor, no opposed, no abstentions
8. Questions regarding the virtual nature of the meeting came up, and the meeting plans to be hybrid going forward.
9. Other Issues:
 - a. Dr. Dagbovie brought up that in relation to Point 6 above, CHM should provide link to language from CDC regarding immunization for health care workers.
 - b. Dr. Smith brought up issues of CHM students' automatic enrollment in insurance that can sometimes take them out of State insurance and loss of medication. The issue may be related to similar issues experienced by Grad Students moving from GA to TA to fellowship in the Fall semester. There is a clear need for policy clarity and dissemination of insurance information to all Grad Students from the Insurance Provider, HR, and/or the University.
10. Adjournment at 3:57PM.