

## UNIVERSITY COUNCIL FOR GRADUATE STUDIES

Minutes, Meeting 472

March 5, 2021

2:00 p.m., online meeting

**PRESENT:** R. Kreuz (CAS), M. Conroy (WLL), L. Robinson (PSYC), P. Simone (CHEM), C. Pierce (FCBE), J. Lukawitz (ACCT), T. McInish (FIR), R. Fisher (CCFA), L. Charles (ART), A. Edgar (COMM), S. Zanskas (EDU), J. Byford (ICL), S. Nordstrom (CEPR), R. Meier (ENGR), A. Robinson (EECE), T. Tan (MECH), B. Harrell (NURS), A. Mary (NURS), J. Gikas (CPLS), C. Chapell (CPLS), R. Qui (KWS), L. Mendel (SCSD), L. Weiss (CHS), M. Levy (SPH), M. Harris (LBRY), A. Rosen (GSA), X. Yu (FS), R. Poston (GS), J. Kierulff (GS), B. Meredith (GS)

**ABSENT:** M. Kyle

**GUESTS:**

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R. Poston called the meeting to order around 2:00 p.m., noting that the recording secretary, M. Kyle will confirm that quorum was attained upon review of the recorded meeting.

**472.1:** R. Poston announced the vote on the minutes will be postponed until the next UCGS meeting.

**472.2 and 472.3:** R. Meier asked that we postpone the vote on the changes proposed by the Transfer/Shared Credit taskforce. R. Poston agreed and asked R. Meier to present the summary of the changes to the group. R. Meier thanked the taskforce members and provided the council with background on the issue the group was tasked with addressing. He summarized the changes proposed, all of which help clarify the catalog language regarding transfer credit and shared credit in the Graduate Catalog. It is important to note the taskforce only addressed the consistency of the language in the Graduate Catalog and did not propose any policy changes. R. Meier informed the council members that several policy related items were identified during the review of the language in the catalog. He reviewed the three policy changes to be discussed by the council. R. Poston thanked R. Meier for presenting the group with this information. She asked the council about the best way of moving forward with the policy related discussion items. It was agreed that the taskforce would reconvene to address the policy related issues.

**472.4:** B. Meredith presented the council with a presentation from EAB about the Impact of COVID-19 on the Adult Learner Mindset. He noted that he will email the PowerPoint to the

group after the meeting. He also informed the members of the most pertinent challenges to enrollment in the current pandemic climate.

**472.5:** B. Meredith provided the council members with an overview of the open house hosted virtually by the Graduate School in February. A link to the schedule of the remaining online open house events is included on the meeting agenda.

**472.6:** UniCAS/Axiom update - J. Kierulff provided the council with an update on Axiom, the integration software that allows banner and UniCAS to interface. He also noted that an update to the UniCAS system is forthcoming. R. Poston encouraged the council to have their departments carefully evaluate their program admission requirements in order to remove hurdles that discourage students from applying. She also asked that program carefully consider the need for the standardized test scores, such as the GRE and GMAT.

**472.7:** R. Poston demonstrated where to locate the English Proficiency webpage, which reflects recently updated guidelines. She asked the council members to help disseminate this information.

**472.8:** R. Poston informed the council about the online 2021 Student Research Forum. She asked the council members to help encourage students to register to participate and demonstrated where to go online to find more information on the student research forum.

**472.9:** R. Poston informed the council that many of the fellowships and scholarships awarded by the Graduate School have approaching deadlines.

**472.10:** R. Poston informed the council that the Tennessee Conference of Graduate Schools Spring Meeting will be held virtually on March 12 from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. M. Kyle will distribute the zoom meeting link and information once it is available.

**472.11:** R. Poston informed the council that M. Kyle is currently inputting all the curricular revisions and additions approved for Fall 2021 into banner.

**472.12:** R. Poston informed the council that the April and May UCGS meetings have been rescheduled. The next meeting will be held on April 9 from 10:30 - 12:30 p.m. The final UCGS meeting of the academic year will be on May 7 from 10:30-12:30 p.m.

**472.13:** R. Poston informed the council about writing assistance workshops being organized by the Library. She noted the benefits of providing such a service.

**472.14:** R. Poston informed the council that the Graduate School has started the search process for a new Graduation Analyst. In the interim J. Kierulff serving in the role.

**472.15:** R. Poston demonstrated where to locate the Graduate Student Spotlight nomination webpage. She asked the council members to share this information with their faculty and students.

M. Harris provided the council with additional information on the writing assistance programs. He noted that there are currently eight sessions scheduled. Advanced registration is not required. R. Poston thanked M. Harris and his team for the hard work they put into organizing this service for our graduate students.

There being no additional business the meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by M. Kyle.