MINUTES
Graduate Council
October 18, 2018

Present: Ex officio: M. Gallo, R. Bonhomme


Guests: U. Abdulla, G. Burns, E. Fox, C. Johnston, T. Marcinkowski, N. Weatherly

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

1) CALL TO ORDER – Dr. Michael Gallo

Dr. Gallo thanked and extended his appreciation to Dr. Allen for substituting for him last month. He reminded everyone that Dr. Nick Daher was present via telephone representing Extended Studies and that Dr. Carroll was present as the designated alternate for Dr. Bashur representing Biomedical and Chemical Engineering and Sciences.

2) MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 2018 GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING

Unanimously Approved

The minutes of the September 20, 2018 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Dr. Edwards and a second by Dr. E. Perez, including one abstention.

3) GRADUATE FACULTY APPOINTMENT – TAYLOR, Johnnie D. Jr.

Unanimously Approved

Request is made by Department of Extended Studies to appoint Dr. Johnnie D. Taylor, Jr. to the Master’s level of Graduate Faculty for service on master and doctoral student committees.

Dr. Gallo said consistent with Graduate Council practice with respect to graduate faculty appointments for adjunct faculty, the request was made to appoint Dr. Taylor at the master’s level. This appointment will allow Dr. Taylor to serve as the major advisor of a thesis committee as well as be a member of a thesis or dissertation committee in a non-chair capacity.

On a motion by Dr. E. Perez and a second by Dr. Martinez-Diaz, the request made by Department of Extended Studies to appoint Dr. Johnnie D. Taylor, Jr. to the Master’s level of Graduate Faculty was unanimously approved.

4) GRADUATE FACULTY APPOINTMENT – PERL, Samuel J.
Unanimously Approved

Request is made by Department of Computer Engineering and Sciences to appoint Mr. Samuel J. Perl to the Master’s level of Graduate Faculty.

Dr. Gallo said consistent with Graduate Council practice with respect to graduate faculty appointments for individuals external to the university, the request was made to appoint Mr. Perl at the master’s level, which will allow him to serve as the major advisor of a thesis committee as well as be a member of a thesis or dissertation committee in a non-chair capacity.

On a motion by Dr. Allen and a second by Dr. Bostater, the request made by Department of Computer Engineering and Sciences to appoint Mr. Samuel J. Perl to the Master’s level of Graduate Faculty was unanimously approved.

5) ADDING A NEW COURSE TO THE CURRICULUM – PSY 6520 Neurodegenerative Diseases and Gerontology

Unanimously Approved

Requests is made by School of Psychology to add new proposed graduate course PSY 6520 Neurodegenerative Diseases and Gerontology to the curriculum.

On a motion by Dr. Follette and a second by Dr. E. Perez, the request made by School of Psychology to add new proposed graduate course PSY 6520 Neurodegenerative Diseases and Gerontology to the curriculum was unanimously approved.

6) ADDING A NEW MAJOR – MS in STEM Education, MS in Environmental and Informal Science Education, EdS in STEM Education, and PhD in STEM Education

All Requests Unanimously Approved

Request is made by Department of Mathematical Sciences to add four new degree programs: MS in STEM Education, MS in Environmental and Informal Science Education, EdS in STEM Education, and PhD in STEM Education.

Dr. Gallo said the four requests from the Department of Mathematical Sciences pertained to the Education program that is housed within the department. Before presenting the requests, he reviewed the following graduate curricula related definitions:

An academic program refers to graduate and professional degrees, majors, and graduate certificates that appear on the official university transcript. All academic programs are assigned a major code number and are published in the university catalog.

An academic program that is deactivated means that the program is no longer offered. To prevent any new students from being admitted into a deactivated program, the program is removed from the university catalog. This removal, however, does not prevent the teach-out of the major for existing students in the major because a deactivated program’s major code is preserved along with all the corresponding academic records associated with the major.

A specialization refers to a specific area of interest or field within an academic program. To reflect the specialization, the academic program’s curriculum is partitioned into two
components: (a) a set of core courses that are required for the program and (b) a set of courses specific to the specialization. Because a specialization is not a separate academic program, it does not get assigned a major code number. Furthermore, the official university transcript will list the academic program, not the specialization.

An option is a separate degree program that shares part of its name and curriculum with another major. As a separate program an option is assigned its own major code, gets published in the university catalog, and appears on the official university transcript.

A question was raised about the use of the word “option” when describing thesis, nonthesis, and capstone options for a degree program. Ms. Fox clarified that the word “option” is used in this context as well.

Dr. Gallo introduced the first request which was to add a new MS degree program in STEM Education. He noted that the proposed new master’s program will replace four current MS degree programs in Educational Technology, Mathematics Education, Science Education, and Elementary Science Education. These current programs will be deactivated as formal academic programs and will become specializations within the proposed MS in STEM Education.

Dr. Gallo reminded Council that regardless of the specialization, the official university transcript will show MS in STEM Education.

On a motion by Dr. Martinez-Diaz and a second by Dr. Sharaf-Eldeen, the request made by Department of Mathematical Sciences to add the proposed new MS degree in STEM Education was unanimously approved.

Dr. Gallo introduced the second request which was to add a new MS degree program in Environmental and Informal Science Education. He noted that the proposed new MS program will replace two current MS programs, Environmental Education and Informal Science Education. These current programs will be deactivated as formal academic programs and will become specializations within the proposed MS in Environmental and Informal Science Education.

Dr. Gallo reminded Council that regardless of the specialization, the official university transcript will show MS in Environmental and Informal Science Education.

A question was raised regarding whether the capstone elements would remain the same. Dr. Marcinkowski replied yes and said students can engage in four different capstone opportunities.

On a motion by Dr. Kiguradze and a second by Dr. Carstens, the request made by Department of Mathematical Sciences to add the proposed new MS degree in Environmental and Informal Science Education was unanimously approved.

Dr. Gallo introduced the third request to add a new EdS degree program in STEM Education. He advised that the proposed new Educational Specialist degree program will replace two current EdS degree programs, Science Education and Mathematics Education. These current programs will be deactivated as formal academic programs and will become specializations within the proposed EdS in STEM Education. As part of the proposed new EdS in STEM Education program, a new specialization in Educational Technology also is being proposed.

Dr. Gallo reminded Council that regardless of the specialization, the official university transcript will show EdS STEM Education.

Dr. Marcinkowski was asked to elaborate on the components of Educational Technology. He replied that Educational Technology addresses the applications of technology in the teaching
and learning process, including online learning. It includes hardware and software that are used to expand developments in the field.

On a motion by Dr. Kiguradze and a second by Dr. E. Perez, the request made by Department of Mathematical Sciences to add the proposed new EdS degree program in STEM Education was unanimously approved.

Dr. Gallo introduced the last request, which was to add a new PhD degree program in STEM Education. Dr. Gallo advised that the proposed new PhD degree program will replace two current PhD degree programs, Science Education and Mathematics Education. These current programs will be deactivated as formal academic programs and will become specializations within the proposed PhD in STEM Education. As part of the proposed new PhD in STEM Education program, a new specialization in Educational Technology also is being proposed.

Dr. Gallo reminded Council that regardless of the specialization, the official university transcript will show PhD STEM Education.

A question arose about the difference between course material in EDS 5070 and EDS 6070. Dr. Gallo responded that EDS 5070 was a broader overview of statistics, while EDS 6070 had more in-depth and specific material content such as multivariate statistics, ANOVA, multiple independent variables, and dependent variables. Dr. Sharaf-Eldeen suggested that maybe the course titles could reflect the content. Dr. Gallo replied that the courses have been titled that way since their creation in the late 1980’s. Dr. Martinez-Diaz asked if course titles could be changed in cases where the course description remains the same. Ms. Fox replied yes, that is possible, as long as the essence of the course content is not being changed and the request is within reason.

On a motion by Dr. Kiguradze and a second by Dr. E. Perez, the request made by Department of Mathematical Sciences to add the proposed new PhD degree program in STEM Education was unanimously approved.

Before closing the agenda category, Dr. Gallo wanted Council to note one more item, the deactivation of the Master of Arts degree in Teaching (MAT) program. He advised that this was an information-only item and did not require Council review or approval.

A question was raised about whether the Teaching Certificate was being deactivated as well. Dr. Marcinkowski replied yes and provided background information on the certificate program. He advised that the program had been dormant for the last four years and he did not see a compelling reason to keep it.

7) **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Gallo announced that the next Graduate Council meeting is November 15, 2018, and the submission deadline for materials is November 1, 2018.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Rosemary G. Layne, Ed.D.
Director of Graduate Programs