The second meeting of the Graduate Assembly for the 2016-2017 academic year will be held on Wednesday, November 9, 2016, at 1:30 PM in the Harry Ransom Center, Tom Lea Room, 3.206. Note: Graduate Assembly Group photo will be taken at 1:15 PM, in front of HRC, 21st street

Provost McInnis is scheduled to join the meeting at 1:45 PM

Order of Business

I. Approval of the minutes of the September 21, 2016 meeting are postponed to February 1, 2017 meeting.

II. Report of the Graduate Dean, ad interim (Marvin Hackert)

III. Report of Chair (Prabhudev Konana)

IV. Academic Committee (Hal Alper)
   A. Proposal to add an option III track to the existing Master of Science in Nutritional Sciences (MSNS) degree program
   B. Proposal to add an option III track to the existing Master of Education (M.Ed.) degree program in Kinesiology with a concentration in Sport Management (pending)

V. Administrative Committee (James Cox)
   A. Proposal to change the grading symbol for theses, reports, dissertation, treatise, and recital courses from "*" (asterisk) to CR/NC
   B. Report of policy review – Graduate student deadline for changing the grading status in a course from letter grade to CR/NC and vice versa

VI. Admissions and Enrollment Committee (Diane Schallert)
   A. Proposal to waive GRE/GMAT requirement for applicants to dual-degree programs administered by the Dell Medical School

VII. Graduate Student Assembly (Wills Brown)

VIII. Adjournment
Proposal to add an Option III (Self-Funded) Track to the Master of Science in Nutritional Sciences Degree Program

Online education is becoming increasingly desirable, particularly for individuals seeking advanced education for professional credentialing. The Department of Nutritional Sciences currently offers the Master of Science in Nutritional Sciences (MSNS) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree programs in residence. We now seek approval to create an Option III (self-supported), online MSNS degree program. The proposed program is based on the existing master's-level curriculum in Nutritional Sciences and represents a change in delivery format only. The two core objectives of the proposed program are to 1) provide working professionals in nutrition and other health-related fields (e.g., Registered Dietitians, physicians, other health professionals, corporate and other wellness professionals) with the knowledge, skills, and experience to further their current careers, expand their working knowledge of nutrition, and enhance future career opportunities and, 2) provide applicants to professional clinical training programs with knowledge and skills in the field of nutritional sciences.

The online (Option III) program in Nutritional Sciences is designed to meet the needs of working professionals by providing more flexibility than in-residence programs can offer for completing higher-level academic or clinical educational goals. The online program will provide working Registered Dietitians (RDs) an opportunity to complete requirements for a master's level education recently imposed by their credentialing agency, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, while retaining full-time employment. The proposed program will also provide additional expertise to other allied health professionals including physician assistants, corporate and other wellness professionals, nurse practitioners, personal trainers, fitness specialists, and nutritionists.

Students applying to the Option III MSNS degree program will be required to meet the same requirements as those applying to the in-residence graduate program in Nutritional Sciences. Preferred applicants will hold bachelor's degrees with pertinent credentials in allied healthcare fields (e.g., RD, Physical or Occupational Therapy, Nursing, or Kinesiology) or bachelor's degrees with necessary science undergraduate prerequisites.

All operating costs and resources required for the program will be covered by tuition and fees charged to students. Development of the online course materials will be covered through an agreement with the UT Institute for Transformational Learning. University faculty teaching in the Option III program will do so on an overload basis. Curriculum decisions will be overseen by the Department of Nutritional Sciences Curriculum Committee; and the program's curriculum and operations will undergo regular review by the Program Director and the Department of Nutritional Sciences Graduate Studies Committee (GSC).

The GSC for the graduate program in Nutritional Sciences voted to recommend approval of the proposed program, effective Fall 2017. The Office of the Provost has provided preliminary approval of the program budget.

A complete copy of the proposal is available in the Office of Graduate Studies. Contact Michelle Broadway at mbroadway@utsa.edu or 232-3625 for additional information.
Proposal to add a Self-Supported (Option III) Track to the Master of Education (M.Ed.) Program in Kinesiology, concentration in Sport Management

The Department of Kinesiology & Health Behavior and Health Education at UT Austin currently offers master’s and doctoral degree programs in Kinesiology in residence. The department now seeks approval to add a self-supported (Option III), online track to the existing Master of Education (M.Ed.) program with a concentration in Sport Management effective fall 2017. The new track will provide early- and mid-career professionals in the sport and recreation industry with the content expertise that is increasingly necessary for career advancement in the field. Online course delivery will allow working professionals to complete a terminal degree in Sport Management without incurring the high opportunity cost of traditional in-residence programs. In addition to meeting standard admission requirements for the University and the graduate program in Kinesiology, applicants to the option III program will be required to have at least one year of full-time work experience. This requirement will allow all students in the cohort to benefit from the experience, knowledge, and networks of the other students in the cohort.

The in-residence M.Ed. program is fully subscribed and will continue at its current enrollment level of 15-20 students each year. The Option III program plans to admit 25 students per long semester (spring and fall) for a total of 50 students admitted to the program each year. Coursework required in the Option III program (30 SCH) will be delivered exclusively online and may be completed within one year. To ensure that faculty can provide a high-quality learning experience, online classes will be limited to 25 students. The Option III curriculum will be coursework-only and will not allow for the internship, thesis, or report offered in the traditional, in-residence program. Students in the Option III program already have professional experience at the time of admission, and this experience substitutes for the industry experience gained through completion of an internship in the traditional program.

University faculty teaching in this program will do so on an overload basis, and policies and procedures governing compensation for staff and faculty will be followed. The faculty available to teach in the program would be limited to clinical and non-tenure track faculty, who would teach no more than one course per semester. Courses in the Option III program will initially be taught by full-time faculty members in the graduate program in Kinesiology whose expertise is in the area of Sport Management. As the program grows, adjunct faculty will be recruited to teach courses in their areas of expertise. Adjunct faculty will be required to have either (1) a Ph.D. in Sport Management or related field, or (2) a master's degree and extensive executive-level experience in the sport industry.

All costs and resources required for the program will be covered by student tuition and fees. University faculty teaching in the program will do so on an overload basis. The Option III program will be administered by the Department of Kinesiology and Health Education in the College of Education. The Graduate Adviser for the Option III program will be the Graduate Adviser for the graduate program in Kinesiology. Curriculum decision will be overseen by a subcommittee of the GSC for the graduate program in Kinesiology. A committee of 5 members of the Kinesiology GSC will oversee program management.

The proposed program has been approved by the GSC in Kinesiology, the department chair, and the dean of the College of Education. Additionally, the Provost has provided preliminary approval of the program budget. The Option III program will process all student invoices and receipts for program fees. Additionally, the program will comply with UT policy regarding the disbursement of fees to the university to cover costs associated with program expenses. Program revenue will be reinvested into the Department of Kinesiology and Health Education to support program, faculty, and student development.

A complete copy of the proposal is available in the Office of Graduate Studies. Contact Michelle Broadway at mbroadway@austin.utexas.edu or 232-3625 for additional information.
Administrative Committee Statement

Recommendation to Change the * (asterisk/star) Grade for Thesis, Report, Treatise, Recital and Dissertation Hours to CR/NC

October 31, 2016

Current Policy:

We assign an * (asterisk/star) for thesis, report, treatise, recital and dissertation hours. The symbol “*” indicates “continuing.”

The Deans asked us to consider the possibility of assigning CR/NC, rather than *, every semester for thesis, report, treatise, recital, and dissertation hours.

This is not a catalog issue. It would be, instead, a “cultural” change for faculty. The Grad School believes that it requires legislation.

Recommendation: At the 14 September 2016 meeting, the Administrative Committee unanimously approved changing the grading for dissertation hours from * to CR/NC. John Deigh registered an objection in the e-mail discussion following the meeting. We revisited the issue at the 12 October 2016 meeting in light of Deigh’s objection and the addition of theses and reports to the discussion. We again approved with a unanimous vote to change the grading for thesis and report as well as dissertation hours from * to CR/NC.

Consistently and transparently documenting students’ progress (or lack thereof) towards their degree is a recurring problem. Assigning credit or no credit every semester for thesis, report, and dissertation hours would help. There will not be any specific or necessary consequence of getting a NC, but it would send an important signal to students.

If a student receives too many NCs (number to be determined by individual GCSs), a GSC could use this record as evidence of lack of progress to support a termination request.

In addition, on a student’s transcript, we currently see three different “hour counts”: hours “attempted” (the total # of hours in which a student has enrolled), hours “passed” (total # of hours for which a student has received a letter grade [better than “C” or CR]), and GPA hours.

For a student who has been at the dissertation stage for some time, the number of attempted hours is much larger than the number of passed hours because “*” is included in “attempted” but not in “passed.”

If we convert to CR/NC this odd difference would not be as dramatic for students who have CRs. Finally, Music has recital hours, and Education has treatise hours. The Administrative Committee does not have a representative from either department, so Dean Neilkirk consulted with them. It is very unusual for students in Music to enroll in recital hours for more than one semester. Therefore, this change does not affect them. Education is in favor of making the change from * to CR/NC. Including recital and treatise hours in the motion will make the policy consistent across the university.

Motion: “Supervisors should assign a grade of Credit or No Credit at the end of each semester for thesis, report, treatise, recital, or dissertation hours.”

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Administrative Committee Statement

Recommendation to Move the Deadline for Changing a Course from Grade to Credit/No Credit and Vice Versa

October 31, 2016

Current Policy (using Fall 2016 as the example):

Before the 12th class day, departments have the authority to allow a student to change a course from grade to Credit/No Credit and vice versa.

Between the 12th class day and Nov. 1, 2016, the graduate advisor and the graduate school must approve this change.

After Nov. 1, 2016, changes are no longer allowed.

The Deans asked the Administrative Committee to consider changing the deadline to a date near the end of the semester. It is not catalog issue and does not require legislation. However, the Deans requested a statement from the committee on its deliberations.

Recommendation: At the 14 September 2016 meeting, the Administrative Committee reached a unanimous decision in support of moving the post-12th class day deadline to a date later in the semester. At the 12 October 2016 meeting, we reconsidered the issue with additional information provided by Dean Neikirk. We again reached a unanimous decision to endorse moving the post-12th class day deadline to the latest date in the semester that is practical. Requests after the 12th class day will still require the approval of the graduate advisor and OGS.

The deadline appeared arbitrary, and we agreed that, as long as it is practical for the Registrar,* there is no reason to prevent students after mid-semester from changing whether they take a course for a grade or Credit/No credit.

We saw no opportunity for students to “game” the system. If students decide that they want to take the course Credit/No credit rather than for a grade because they aren’t doing the work, for example, the instructor still has the choice to assign no credit. If students decide that they want to take the course for a grade rather than Credit/No credit, the instructor retains the authority to assign the grade that the student earns.

We saw this change as uncontroversial. It will have the added benefit of making life easier for Graduate Coordinators, who tell us that these kinds of mid-semester deadlines produce both confusion and anxiety.

*The Registrar is fine with the change so long as the deadline comes before grade sheets run on the Saturday after the last Friday of classes.
Report of the Admissions and Enrollment Committee of the Graduate Assembly

Date: Nov. 2, 2016

The Committee met on Oct. 19 and again on Nov. 2 to discuss a request put to us by Elizabeth Nelson, Chair of the Undergraduate Medical Education Committee, and Sue Cox, Executive Vice Dean for Academic, both from the Dell Medical School, requesting permission to waive the GRE (Graduate Record Examination) for those students seeking a dual degree, master’s and MD, as part of their work while enrolled in medical school. The program supplied us with background information and our own GIAC office brought statistics to the table for us to consider. We also consulted the Graduate Assembly Recommended Guidelines for Future Standardized Test Waivers (Sep 2015 version).

As for rationale and background information, the program made the following point:
1. The medical degree is a 4-year, and students are admitted to the Dell Medical School at UT after a rigorous review that includes MCAT scores.
2. During the third year of their program, medical students engage in a “growth year” aimed at increasing their innovation, leadership, and discovery skills. This is when these students will pursue master’s degrees in several areas offered through programs in departments in several disciplines.
3. Several other UT System Medical Schools already waive the GRE for their dual-degree programs.

After due deliberation, the committee voted in support of the request. Thus we put forth the following motion:

The Motion is to approve the request from the Dell Medical School to waive the requirement for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) for all medical students participating in dual degree programs to earn both a medical degree and a master’s degree by the time they finish their medical school studies.