

Graduate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2022
MEETING LOCATION: Convers 3007/Online through Microsoft TEAMS

Present: Becky da Cruz, David Nelson, John Lairsey, Keith Lee, Anne Price, Michelle Ritter, Jennifer Beal, Mitch Lockhart, Matthew Carter, Ellis Heath, Lenese Colson, Arsalan Wares, Debra Gresham, Zhong Lin,

Proxy: Luis Bejerano for Kelly Davidson, Ellis Heath for Nancy Swanson

Guests: Steve Downey, Renee Whitmer, Chris Downing, Crystal Marshall, Rebecca Petrella, Cordell Moats, and Darli DeVane

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Becky da Cruz at 2:01 pm.

Minutes from August 18, 2022 were approved. David Nelson motioned to approve. Michelle Ritter seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved - 0 opposed – 0 abstained

College of Education and Human Services

Request for a Revised Catalog copy Catalog): Graduate Program Progression. Cleaning up and updated content based on recent program and state requirement changes
Michelle Ritter motioned to approve. Matt Carter seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders

Request for a Revised Catalog copy (website): Master of Education in Communication Disorders. The Georgia Professional Standards Commission recently removed the program admission assessment as a requirement for admission into educator preparation programs. To remain competitive with other providers, this program is removing the admission requirement. In addition, the department is changing the GPA to be consistent with other programs in the department and across programs in other universities. To date, the department has accepted less than 5% of students.
Ellis Heath motioned to approve. Debra Gresham seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

Department of Human Services

Request for Revised Catalog Copy (website): Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Counselor Education. The Georgia Professional Standards Commission recently removed the program admission assessment as a requirement for admission into educator preparation programs. To remain competitive with other providers, this program is removing the admission requirement.
Ellis Heath motioned to approve. David Nelson seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

Request for Curriculum Change (website): Gifted in-Field Endorsement. Student performance will be monitored in order to understand the impact of these changes on student progression and retention. Ellis Heath motioned to approve. David Nelson seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

Department of Teacher Education

Request for Curriculum Change (Catalog): Master of Education with a Major in Curriculum and Instruction in Accomplished Teaching. We are combing these two courses into one so that it aligns with the EDUC 5999 course already offered.

Ellis Heath motioned to approve. Matt Carter seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

Request for Curriculum Change (Catalog): Ed.S. Degree with a Major in Teacher Leadership. We are combing these two courses into one so that it aligns with the EDUC 5999 course already offered. Ellis Heath motioned to approve. Matt Carter seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

Request for Curriculum Change (Catalog): Mathematics Endorsement for K-5 Teachers (Deactivation). We want to deactivate this endorsement due to low enrollment.

Ellis Heath motioned to approve. Matt Carter seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

Request for Curriculum Change (Catalog): Science Endorsement for K-5 Teachers (Deactivation)

We want to deactivate this endorsement due to low enrollment.

Ellis Heath motioned to approve. Matt Carter seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

Request for Curriculum Change (Catalog): Master of Arts in Teaching in Special Education. The Georgia Professional Standards Commission removed edTPA as a completion requirement in educator preparation Programs, so this course is no longer needed. We are also joining the 2999 courses into one single EDUC 2999 course. Ellis Heath motioned to approve. Matt Carter seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

Request for a Revised Catalog Copy (Catalog): Master of Arts in Teaching in Special Education-Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Education. The Georgia Professional Standards Commission recently removed the program admission assessment as a requirement for admission into educator preparation programs. To remain competitive with other providers, this program is removing the admission requirement. For simplicity, admission requirements have been removed from the catalog entry.

Ellis Heath motioned to approve. Matt Carter seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

Request for a Revised Catalog Copy (Catalog): Master of Education with a Major in Special Education -Deaf and Hard-of Hearing Education. Removing admission criteria from catalog and modifying curriculum to meet current special education rule requirements. Ellis Heath motioned to approve. Matt Carter seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

Request for a Revised Catalog Copy (Catalog): Georgia Reading Endorsement. The Georgia Professional Standards Commission offers the reading endorsement for all educators who hold professional Georgia certification. Ellis Heath motioned to approve. Matt Carter seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

Request for Revised Catalog Copy (website): Master of Arts in Teaching in Special Education-Adapted Curriculum. The Georgia Professional Standards Commission recently removed the program admission assessment as a requirement for admission into educator preparation programs. To remain competitive with other providers, this program is removing the admission requirement. In addition, admission criteria are being revised to align with other MAT-level teacher education programs. Ellis Heath motioned to approve. Matt Carter seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

Request for Revised Catalog Copy (website): Master of Arts in Teaching in Special Education-Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Education. The Georgia Professional Standards Commission recently removed the program admission assessment as a requirement for admission into educator preparation programs. The SLPI minimum score is needed in order for students to be hired in the schools. To remain competitive with other providers, this program is removing the admission requirement. Ellis Heath motioned to approve. Matt Carter seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

Request for Revised Catalog Copy (website): Master of Arts in Teaching in Special Education-General Curriculum. The Georgia Professional Standards Commission recently removed the program admission assessment as a requirement for admission into educator preparation programs. To remain competitive with other providers, this program is removing the admission requirement. In addition, admission criteria are being revised to align with other MAT-level teacher education programs. Ellis Heath motioned to approve. Matt Carter seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

Request for Curriculum Change (website): Mathematics Endorsement for K-5 Teachers. We want to deactivate this endorsement due to low enrollment. Ellis Heath motioned to approve. Matt Carter seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

Request for Curriculum Change (website): Science Endorsement of K-5 Teachers. We want to deactivate this endorsement due to low enrollment. Ellis Heath motioned to approve. Matt Carter seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

Request for Revised Catalog Copy (website): Master of Arts in Teaching in Health and Physical Education. The Georgia Professional Standards Commission recently removed the program admission assessment as a requirement for admission into educator preparation programs. To remain competitive with other providers, this program is removing the admission requirement. Ellis Heath motioned to approve. Matt Carter seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

Request for Revised Catalog Copy (website): Education Specialist (Ed.S.) in Teacher Leadership. We are adjusting the minimum admission GPA to align with other teacher education programs. Ellis Heath motioned to approve. Matt Carter seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

Request for Revised Catalog Copy (website): Reading Education Endorsement. We no longer need VSU students to submit a Letter of Intent. Minimum GPA is no longer required by the state for endorsement programs. Ellis Heath motioned to approve. Matt Carter seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

Request for Revised Catalog Copy (website): Master of Arts in Teaching in Middle Grades or Secondary Education. The Georgia Professional Standards Commission recently removed the program admission assessment as a requirement for admission into educator preparation programs as well as provided an option for candidates to enroll without demonstrated content knowledge. They also changed some of the requirements for admission into pedagogy-only programs. To remain competitive with other providers, this program is removing these admission requirements. Ellis Heath motioned to approve. Matt Carter seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

Request for Revised Catalog Copy (website): Master of Education in Special Education/Deaf Education. Updating the page to reflect admission requirements used in practice. Ellis Heath motioned to approve. Matt Carter seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

Request for a Revised Course: EDAT 6001: Using Assessment to Improve Teaching and Learning This course is considered clinical practice for VSU so it should be taken near the end of the students' program. Ellis Heath motioned to approve. Matt Carter seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained

College of Nursing and Health Sciences

Request for a New Course: NURS 8320: Practice Implementation and Sustainability for Advanced Practice Nurse. Advanced practice nurses must be able to demonstrate competencies in the comprehensive, integrated health care of patients across the lifespan. This course will assist DNP students achieve program outcomes by presenting strategies for seamless transition to advance nursing practice and leadership. This course along with existing courses in the DNP program combine to address the Essentials for Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice (2016) outcomes and education requirements of the APRN Consensus Model (ANCC, 2012). Debra Gresham motioned to approve. Ellis Heath seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained

Sub Committee Reports

- **Graduate Student Success** – Chris Downing stated that the Grad Kick off went well. Dr. da Cruz mentioned that the online event went really well, but there was a low turn out for the face to face event. Chris stated they were going to meet next week to debrief about the survey results. They are going to talk about how to improve the spring kick off.
- **Doctoral Program Sub-Committee**- No report
- **Graduate Appeals**-No Report
- **Graduate Faculty Scholarship**- Dr. da Cruz stated the deadline for the fall faculty scholarship is September 30th. She encouraged everyone to make sure the faculty are aware of the upcoming deadline, so they can get their application in on time. There have been quite a few applications

already submitted. Due to the number of applications there maybe some who are not awarded due to limited funds. The sub-committee will meet after the September 30th deadline.

- **Graduate Faculty Membership-** Dr. da Cruz stated that David Nelson serves as the current chair of this committee, but would like to step down; however, he would like to continue on the committee. We are seeking more sub-committee members also. This committee reviews faculty applications for full Grad status and only meet twice a year (fall & spring).
- **Graduate Research Symposium-** The sub-committee met on September 7th and will continue pre planning for the symposium. The committee plans to set earlier deadlines for the nominations, posters and 3 MT's. Dr. da Cruz encouraged the committee begin planning their nominations and to ensure the students are aware of the nomination. The committee discussed having a dual competition in the 3MT for online and face to face students. She also wants some options open for the posters for online students as well. David Nelson mentioned that there will be workshops setup for students who would like to work on their presentation. Keith Lee mentioned that the committee is thinking about the possibility of having a division for the poster category, so there would be a winner selected from groups of similar admissions. Dr. da Cruz mentioned that we plan to continue musical performances also.

Other Business/Topics from the floor

- **Grad Student Change of Degree/Program-** Steve Downey discussed the possibility of having a new form crated for Grad students who wish to change/transfer majors. They would fill out a form so as not to have to reapply to Grad school. After much discussion, Steve agreed to create a form and pilot the program to see how it works.
- **Graduate Admissions Update-** Rebecca stated admissions has been testing a 2.0 version of the actual application, so far things are working out well. She stated that the IT solution center will be testing it next. She is hoping to have the new version launched soon.
- **Graduate Assistant Updates-** Dr. da Cruz reminded everyone that the competitive GA application is due September 30th. She also reminded everyone the not every graduate program will get their own GA. Keith Lee asked if the programs that have guaranteed GA's could have those position for the summer as well. He stated this would help when it comes to recruiting for the program. Dr. da Cruz said it would have to go before the cabinet for it to be approved. She suggested the task force meet again then bring before the cabinet.
- **Catalog: Irregular Admissions- Vote** There was a vote to remove the Irregular Admissions from the catalog. John Lairsey motioned to approve. Debra Gresham seconded. Motion passed: 15 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.
- **AA Strategic Plan-** Representatives met September 14th. The following are on the committee: College of Nursing and Health Sciences is Lois Bellflowers, College of Education and Human Services is Kate Warner, Library is Emily Rogers, College of Humanities and Social Sciences is Deb Brihl, College of Arts is Monika Miller, College of Science and Math is Sudip Chakraborty. Dr. da Cruz recommended if there are any questions or input to talk to your representative.
- **Draft website update form (attached):** The draft website form was uploaded for everyone to review. Dr. da Cruz requested everyone review it and provide feedback.
- **Dissertation Dive-Ins:** Dr. da Cruz updated everyone on how this process is working and reminded everyone that they are looking for more faculty who may be interested to work with doctoral students.
- **AGS & SGA Updates- Cordell Moats, AGS rep:** Cordell talked about the upcoming September meeting to be held Monday the 19th. The meeting will be hybrid, so students could

come in person or meet online. The meeting will be held in the new GA Grad room in the Library with Dr. Laverne as the guest speaker. He also reminded the committee that today was the last day for students to apply if they were interested in being an executive member.

- **Items from the Floor-** Dr. da Cruz stated she was going to bring an item to the next meeting involving regional accredited university requirements. She has invited Michael Black to the October meeting to discuss this.

Motion made to adjourn at 3:38 pm

Next AC Meeting: October 17th

Next GEC meeting: October 20th

X *Darli DeVane*

Darli DeVane
Administrative Coordinator

X *Becky K. da Cruz*

Dr. Becky da Cruz, Associate Provost
for Graduate Studies & Research