

Graduate Council Meeting October 7, 2021

Present: Professors: Badovinac, Beck, Cwiertny, Doucette, Forbes, Gardner, Hoffman, Hribar, Kang, O'Shaughnessy, Qian, Van Otterloo; Graduate Students: Harper, Post, Waldstein; Graduate College Personnel: Arbisi-Kelm, Danger, Sparks, Teitle, Thein, Varga.

Absent: Professors: Greyser; Graduate Students: Sells; Graduate College Personnel: Campo.

The meeting was called to order by Dean Thein @ 08:16 AM.

1. Announcements

Dean Thein announced that last week she met with the [Graduate College External Advisory Board](#). Events included dinner with students and postdocs across campus as well as a day of meetings. This board is newly reconstituted and will help shape the vision of the college. She looks forward to continued interactions with the board.

Kody Waldstein, Graduate Student Senate President, reports the Undergraduate Student Government held a joint session with the Graduate and Professional Student Government. President Wilson provided a welcome address. Legislation was proposed for recognizing Juneteenth as a university holiday. The student organization budget was passed, therefore organizational funds are being distributed to support their activities. A plan for acquisition and administration of COVID-19 vaccines was discussed.

2. September 23, 2021, meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Proposal to rename programs (PhD, MA, EDU, and PI) from Rehabilitation and Counselor Education to Counselor Education.

Dean Thein introduced the proposers Associate Dean Wesely and Professor Noel Estrada who were available to address questions or concerns regarding the proposal. After discussion a motion was made and seconded. The vote to advance the proposal was approved unanimously.

4. Proposal to revise and rename the Transportation Studies certificate to Transportation Planning certificate.

Dean Thein introduced Lucie Laurian, School of Planning and Public Affairs Departmental Executive Officer, and Professor Steve Spear who were available to address questions or concerns regarding the proposal. After discussion a motion was made and seconded. The vote to advance the proposal was approved unanimously.

5. Discussion regarding support of teaching assistants.

Dean Thein stated she was apprised that an important discussion opened up at the last meeting about the vulnerability of teaching assistants when their feelings of safety intersect with free speech. She provided time for additional discussion of these concerns, explaining that Graduate Council members are leaders in graduate education and she values their ideas and input. Concerns were raised about students' experiences navigating multiple administrative offices when reporting incidents including racist language. Dean Thein said that she has spoken with GSS and campus leaders about similar concerns and appreciates Graduate Council's perspectives and ideas. Prior to the last meeting Todd Pettys was invited to attend a Graduate Council meeting. He is a law specialist as it pertains to first amendment rights. He agreed to join a meeting in November.

The meeting was adjourned at 09:36 AM.