

Graduate Council
Agenda
December 15, 2020

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://berry.zoom.us/j/901940907>

Meeting ID: 901 940 907

I. New Business:

Approval of minutes from the 11-17-20 meeting

II. Old Business

Charter School of Education and Human Sciences:
M.A.T curriculum revision

Campbell School of Business

- BUS 685
- MBA Graduate Catalog Updates
- Similar to the undergraduate policy, allow summer graduates to participate in spring graduation if completing coursework in the summer to complete degree requirements
- Addition of parking fees for graduate students

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 1/19/21 at 11 a.m.
Agenda items for the 1/19 meeting
will be due on Thursday, 1/14 at 5 p.m.

Graduate Council
Minutes of November 17, 2020

Dr. Boyd called the Zoom meeting to order. In attendance were: Paula Englis, Matthew Levin, Basil Englis, Carolyn Stuftt, Bryce Durbin, Joyce Heames, Andy Bressette, Nancy Mercer, Lawrence Baines, Alan Hughes, Monica Willingham.

Minutes from May 6, 2020 were *approved by voice vote*.

Commencement update

Dr. Boyd asked for information from each of the graduate programs about their plans for make-up graduate commencements.

Ms. Mercer responded that there had been a survey to the MBA graduates students who expressed a desire to maintain a separate ceremony and preferred to have it scheduled sometime in late spring, possibly in April of 2021.

Dean Heames added that there would be approximately 15 that would participate from the MBA program.

Dean Hughes commented that they also sent out a survey and their graduates also indicated a desire for a ceremony sometime in April. Ms. Willingham added that there would be approximately 30-35 students and they preferred a separate ceremony from the undergraduates.

Dr. Boyd, confirmed that if parents or students have questions about the graduate commencement plans, the primary contacts would be Ms. Willingham for the Charter School and Ms. Mercer for the Campbell school.

New Business:

Charter School

Dr. Baines introduced the following for first reading:

- Proposal: Change the Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T) degree. Change as indicated in submitted proposal paperwork.

Discussion: Dr. Baines summarized the proposed changes to the M.A.T. degree program. The new program would reduce the required hours to 31 (from 48), would require no new courses and no additional faculty resources. Dr. Boyd assuming a non-pandemic context, will the program be traditional, online, or hybrid? Dr. Baines responded that most courses will be face-to-face, or hybrid; one course may be online. Dr. Boyd asked if all of these courses are currently being offered? Dr. Baines responded that the classes are on the books but most have not been offered in quite some time. Dr. Boyd asked if the existing faculty can offer these courses with no additional faculty resources? Dr. Baines responded that they could. Dr. Boyd asked if the program would be a cohort model, or will students be able to take the classes any time. Dr. Baines responded that it would not

be a cohort model; they can take them any time. It is designed to allow students to complete them at different times and to allow students to enroll in small groups, rather than having to enroll an entire cohort. Dr. Paula Englis asked if most of the courses offered in the fall are actually undergraduate classes with a separate graduate section? Dr. Baines, yes, it meets at the same time as the undergraduate course but would have a separate syllabus and requirements. Given the small size this is the only way to support the program.

Dean Heames asked what drove you to renew this program. Is there demand in the marketplace for it? Dr. Baines responded that there are some lower quality programs out there and there is a market for the high-quality program that Berry will offer. Dean Hughes added that there are a lot of undergraduate students at Berry who may be able to take advantage of this program after they graduate with their undergraduate degree.

Ms. Mercer asked if these students be working while they were in the program? Dr. Baines responded that they would potentially be working, but most likely not yet as teachers. The classes will be offered during the day predominantly. This will hopefully appeal to recent Berry graduates who could enter our program and 10 months later be certified to teach and have a master's degree.

Dr. Boyd asked if there are any concerns about finding field placements for these students. Dr. Baines responded that there are no concerns. Local schools are eager for additional Berry students. Dr. Boyd asked if does this proposal needs PSC approval before going forward? Ms. Willingham responded that would be a substantive change so it does have to go through the PSC. Dr. Boyd asked what the timeline is for PSC approval. Ms. Willingham responded that it is 45 working days; so we could potentially begin the program in the Fall 2021. Dr. Boyd commented that it may require a substantive change for SACSCOC as well, we'll have to check that. Dean Hughes suggested that given that we had to get approval to get the change to offer a graduate program online, would this change not also require it? We'll likely meet in December for second reading.

Campbell School

Dean Heames introduced the following:

- Proposal: CHANGE BUS 685 Strategies World Class Organizations. Remove FIN 601 as PR. Add CR FIN 601.
- Proposal: Change catalog language as indicated

Discussion: Dr. Boyd asked if the catalog changes were due to the recent AACSB reaccreditation feedback. Dean Heames responded that they were because of feedback from that process. Ms. Mercer added that these changes would standardize the language and clarify some of the policies.

Joint MBA/Graduate EDU proposals:

- Proposal: add a summer early-walking in policy for graduate-level graduation ceremonies.

Discussion: Dr. Boyd pointed out that 2 classes from a 30-hour program is a lot different from 2 courses from a 124-hour program. Dean Heames, commented that, in a cohort model, nearly all student would

end up with the final two courses in the last summer. It would be very unlikely for the students to not qualify to walk early.

Dr. Basil Englis commented that if the program is structured to run through the end of the summer it seems problematic to let them participate in the ceremony.

Dean Hughes commented that in the undergraduate context, there is no expectation for summer classes which would be different than in the graduate programs.

Ms. Willingham added that in the graduate education programs, we could potentially have entire cohorts able to walk early.

Dr. Boyd suggested that since there does not seem to be consensus we could simply say there is no policy or that we can say that students can petition to have an exception to the rule to be ruled by Dean's council.

- Proposal: Parking fee change for graduate students.

Ms. Mercer discussed the desire to remove the parking fee from the charges for graduate students. She commented that graduate students are told there won't be any extra fees, but it seems like many (but possibly not all) of them are being charged for parking even though they are only here one night a week in some cases. Dr. Boyd commented that Brad Reeder indicated that they are always charged the fee. Ms. Willingham responded that to her knowledge they have not been charged in the past. Ms. Mercer added that it is not noted in the catalog. Dean Heames commented that it appears that some are being charged and some are not. Dean Heames added that \$110 seems an excessive charge for a few nights a semester.

Dr. Boyd suggested that Ms. Mercer and Ms. Willingham discuss the issue with Brad Reeder prior to the next meeting.

Next meeting, if necessary, will be by email in December.

Chair: Mary Boyd

Secretary: Bryce Durbin