

Graduate Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/92572671534>

I. Call to Order

Goodman called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes from March 30 meeting

Walsh-Childers made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 30, 2023 meeting. The motion was seconded by Chen and the committee approved.

III. Remote Defense Policy

Goodman presented the updated policy language. Coffey made a motion to approve the language, which was seconded by Hutchens. Ostroff made a friendly amendment to the language. A motion to approve the proposed language including the amendment was made by Walsh-Childers and seconded by Hutchens. The committee passed the updated language:

The student and the chair or co-chair are required to be in the same physical location. All other committee members, including the external, can participate via advanced communication technology. If there is an extreme extenuating circumstance that prevents the chair or co-chair from being able to be in the same physical location, another CJC committee member must be in the same physical location as the student. Any additional situations will be considered by petition to the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies.

IV. Student Petition

Goodman presented a student petition to allow the committee chair to attend a qualifying exams defense remotely while other members of the committee will be in person. This request falls within the remote defense policy guidelines passed by the committee, so the committee voted to approve the petition.

V. Professional Master's Degree Plan Updates

Calienes presented updates to the degree plan form, which include replacing a PR Research course with a Mass Comm Research course as a stated course option. The PR Research course is still an available option under "Other." Data Visualization was removed as a research option since students need to complete a research course before enrolling in Data Visualization. After discussion, a motion was made to approve the changes to the degree plan. The motion was seconded by Walsh-Childers and approved by the committee.

VI. Combination degree applications and time to completion of B.S.

Goodman presented concerns for undergraduate students who are applying to the combined degree program during their final term of study and opened for discussion the potential to require students to have more than 12 credits remaining in their undergraduate program before applying to the combined degree program. After discussion, the committee decided to leave this decision to the program administrators and advisors when reviewing applications rather than creating a policy.

VII. Funding

Goodman presented two items related to funding:

1. The potential for doctoral students to receive a fifth year of funding became a common issue in recent years due to COVID related delays in research and dissertation progress. Going forward, fifth year funding options are no longer available unless a student can document extreme, long-term extenuating circumstances.
2. Due to low doctoral enrollment, funding will be allocated to select students in the MAMC program for 1-2 years to assist with MAMC to Ph.D. recruiting efforts.

VIII. Graduation with Distinction

Goodman presented a proposal to remove the application process for the MAMC Graduation with Distinction designation and auto-award the designation to all students with the applicable GPA. After discussion, a motion was made to table the discussion until the Fall 2023 term. Chen seconded the motion and the committee agreed.

IX. Adjourn

Goodman adjourned the meeting at 9:29 a.m.

In Attendance: Goodman, Dukes, Holloway, Chen, Coffey, Fisher, Hmielowski, Hutchens, Morton, Ostroff, Walsh-Childers, Robbert, Kropp, Calienes