



## Academic Affairs Committee Minutes

Location: Zoom

Date: September 1, 2021

Approved September 15, 2021

### 1. Roll Call

**Present:** Ben Bencomo (Social Work), Kevin Ensor (Counseling), Gloria Gadsden (Sociology, Anthropology, & Criminal Justice), Gil Gallegos (Computer & Mathematical Sciences), André García-Nuthmann (Visual & Performing Arts), Sandra Gardner (Nursing), Katie Gray (Library), Mariah F. Hausman (Media Arts & Technology), Jennifer Klutsch (Forestry), Arcadius Krivoshein (Chemistry), Daniel Olufemi (Curriculum & Instruction), David Pan (Psychology), Luke Ritter (History & Political Science), Rod Rock (proxy for Educational Leadership), Eric Romero (Languages & Culture), Maureen Romine (Biology), Rodney Sanchez (Business Administration), Mariana Ulibarri-Horan (Special Education), Elisabeth Valenzuela (Teacher Education)

**Absent:** Sheree Jederberg (Educational Leadership), Kathy Jenkins (Exercise & Sport Sciences)

**Vacant positions:** English, Natural Resource Management

**Ex Officio Members:** Roxanne Gonzales (VPAA), Henrietta Romero (Registrar)

**Also present:** Christina Durán (Dean, Social Work), Mary Earick (Dean, Education), April Kent (Library, Faculty Senate Representative), Peter Linder (History & Political Science), Veena Parboteeah (Dean, Business & Media Arts), Ian Williamson (AVPAA)

### 2. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION to approve agenda. Seconded. Approved by consensus.

### 3. Approval of Minutes – August 18, 2021

MOTION to approve minutes. Seconded. Approved by consensus.

### 4. Subcommittee Reports

#### a. Undergraduate Appeals (Gardner)

Nothing to report.

b. Graduate Appeals (Jenkins)

Nothing to report.

In response to previous questions about the lack of graduate appeals, I. Williamson reported that most of the appeals that have come to the VPAA's office have not been complicated, and therefore did not need to be sent to the AAC for review.

c. Ballen (Election of Chair - M. Hausman)

MOTION to approve M. F. Hausman as Chair of the Ballen committee.  
Seconded. Approved by consensus.

d. Policy Subcommittee (Gadsden)

Subcommittee will be meeting tomorrow [9/2/2021].

5. Program Review Subcommittee Reports (see attached subcommittee list)

a. Southwest Studies (Gallegos)

The review is complete and will be presented at the next AAC meeting.

b. Native American Hispano Cultural Studies (Jenkins)

Nothing to report.

c. Health (Gray)

Subcommittee input has been collated and will be forwarded to the program.

d. Human Performance and Sport, BA, Minor (Gadsden)

Subcommittee Chair is waiting to hear from the program.

e. Human Performance and Sport, MA (Gadsden)

Subcommittee Chair sent review to the subcommittee members for input.

f. Education – Special Education (Gadsden Gray)

K. Gray is now Chair of the subcommittee. The program is working on the recommendations that were supplied by the subcommittee at a meeting of 5/7/2021.

g. Social Work, BSW, MSW (CSWE Accredited) (Jederberg)

No report.

h. Media Arts, MA, MS, BA, BFA, Minor, Certificate (Pan)

Subcommittee Chair is waiting to hear from the program.

i. Curriculum & Instruction (Ritter)

Subcommittee should be receiving a report in the next few weeks.

j. Teacher Education (Jenkins)

No report.

k. Mathematics (Romine)

Subcommittee Chair emailed the program but has not yet received a response.

**6. Chemistry Department - New course, Drug Discovery and Design (CHEM 6XXX) - discussion item (Krivoshein)**

A. Krivoshein presented an overview of the course. The Chemistry Department has lost some electives in recent years. This course will alleviate the shortage. The course has been offered as a Special Topic twice. It will probably be offered once every two years.

Chair had asked the department to reach out to other programs that offer drug-related courses to ensure there was no course conflict. All programs reported there was not.

No further questions or comments from the committee.

**7. Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice - New course, Sociology of Murder (SOCI/CJUS 4XXX/5XXX); New course, Advanced Criminology (SOCI/CJUS 6XXX); New course, Gender and Crime (SOCI/CJUS 6XXX); New course, Professional Paper (SOC 6940); Course revision, Classical Social Theory (SOC/ANTH 3000) - discussion item (Gadsden)**

Chair ceded control of meeting to Secretary.

G. Gadsden presented an overview of the proposals. There are four new courses and one course revision.

- Sociology of Murder has been offered twice as a Special Topic and was very popular.

- Advanced Criminology is being created because students who are required to take Criminology at the Undergraduate level are not able to take it again when they become Graduate students.
- Gender and Crime has been offered before at the 3000 level. The program would like to offer it at the 6000 level.
- Professional Paper is required for the new Master's degree.
- Classical Social Theory has an odd title and course description. It is being updated to reflect the discipline today.

Question from a committee member. Is the Professional Paper a type of senior project or capstone? Dr. Gadsden stated that the degree offers two options: a thesis or a published paper. This course is for students who choose the published paper option.

Question from the Registrar. Will the addition of Advanced Criminology require a program revision? Dr. Gadsden stated that for now, the program will be submitting course substitutions. There will be other changes to the program coming soon, and they would like to address them all at the same time.

No further questions or comments from the committee.

Secretary ceded control of meeting back to Chair.

#### 8. Communication from the Chair (Gadsden)

Chair had no updates at this time but wished to thank the committee members again for their continued work.

#### 9. Communication from the Registrar (Romero)

As of 8/27, total enrollment is down 5%. Undergraduate is down 10% and Graduate is up 4%. The Census date is coming up.

The Registrar sent out a call for second 8-week and fall intersession courses. Deadline to get courses in is 9/24.

The call for Spring 2022 courses is expected to go out the week of 9/13.

Early registration for Spring 2022 begins November 1.

The deadline for applications to graduate in Fall 2021 is 11/5. Going forward, the Registrar will probably have graduation deadlines established ahead of time.

Question from the Chair. Is there a change in retro add/drop numbers? The Registrar stated that they are about the same, though they were hoping for lower

numbers. The Registrar's office has been advising students to follow up with faculty about catching up on coursework they might have missed.

The Registrar stated that complete school withdrawals is much higher. Chair asked for possible reasons. The Registrar stated that some students appeared to be unhappy about the mandates. There were also some who had to withdraw due to recovery time from Covid.

Chair asked about glitches that were experienced during the previous winter intersession. Have those been addressed? The Registrar stated that she doesn't believe we will see those problems this year. The office has it organized better this year, but they are at the mercy of technology. The Registrar asked that faculty send her any concerns so that they can look at them before the intersession begins.

**10. Communication from the Faculty Senate (Kent)**

See attached report.

**11. Communication from the Graduate Council (Gadsden)**

Chair ceded control of the meeting to the Secretary.

Dr. Gadsden stated that the Council recently met. The Graduate Dean gave a report to the Council. Graduate assistantships have been processed at a higher rate this year than in the past. Concerns were expressed to admissions about enrollment and admission. The Council is still working on the probation, expulsion, and suspension policy, which will be on the next agenda. The Council and Registrar are working on the change to the transfer policy, whereby syllabi will not be required. The Chairs of the Graduate Council, Faculty Senate, and the Graduate Dean met to review and determine the roles of the various organizations.

**12. Communication from the Administration (Gonzales)**

The Provost reported that there was a gas leak on campus today that affected several buildings.

M. Earick is the new representative on the Covid team.

The Provost has identified some issues from Faculty Senate that fell through the loop and will be resubmitting those.

There are new degrees that will be coming through this year.

Due to salary savings in positions, the Provost got approval for an assistant director for the grants office. Dr. Williamson reported that they are almost ready to post the position. The Provost stated that it will be posted internally first.

Wiley's numbers for the 1<sup>st</sup> 8 weeks exceeded expectations.

The Provost will be bringing forward a proposal dealing with the passport program from WICHE [Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education], for which they have signed a letter of intent. The proposal will be going to the Faculty Senate but will probably end up in the AAC for review.

Chair requested an update from the Deans on the innovation funds that were distributed last year. The Provost stated that all Deans were given \$10,000. A report has been sent to President Minner.

M. Earick stated that the School of Education partnered with the co-teaching academy at St. Cloud University for a train-the-trainers initiative. Now, the School can grow their own specialists in co-teaching.

C. Durán reported that the School of Social Work was planning to use the funds for the MSW online program to house students in the new cohort (27 students). They wanted to house students in Las Vegas so students could see the campus and community and to make a connection with the university. They wanted to house them in the dorm, but couldn't due to the pandemic. The School will talk to the budget office to see if they can use the funds this year. Chair agreed that it was a fantastic idea. Dr. Durán stated that a residency is mandatory at the beginning of the program. The Provost stated that many terminal degrees have some kind of residential component, even if they are asynchronous.

V. Parboteeah reported that the School of Business and Media Arts hosted the Cowboy Pitch competition. Several students and community members submitted ideas, and the School chose winners. The School received good feedback from the students. R. Sanchez stated that it was modeled after the Shark Tank television program. There were five cash prizes with the idea of encouraging people's business ideas to come to fruition. One applicant who was not a winner, had a tourism idea and Dr. Sanchez was able to put them in touch with another businessperson, so the idea may come to fruition.

P. Linder stated that the College of Arts and Sciences offered a number of free courses. Chair stated that she offered one of those classes. Thirty people signed up and ten came to class, but it was interesting and engaging. The Provost stated that typically many people sign up for free courses, but not many follow through, but the intent is to get students interested. E. Romero stated that they offered the summer exploration week-long free course. It was designed with marketing and recruiting in mind. There were not as many students as hoped, but the program

would do it again. The Provost stated that the idea was to see if the university could do something different.

The Provost reminded everyone of the upcoming Online Learning Consortium conference.

Chair asked about next steps for the new Nursing degree. Dr. Williamson stated that it is the same process that the Criminology degree went through. The Provost will take it before the Board of Regents. Next, it will go before the Council of Graduate Deans. Then, the HED cabinet. Once the cabinet secretary makes a recommendation, it will go before the Legislative Finance Committee. The final step is HLC. We can submit concurrently to HED and HLC, but HLC will not approve the program until after HED does. However, they will be able to review while they are waiting for HED, which will save time. S. Gardner and the Nursing team met with Dr. Williamson and B. Kempner to discuss the process and what the state will be looking for.

Chair stated that there have been rumors about other professional doctorates in Psychology and Social Work. Dr. Durán stated that the School has discussed offering a DSW. This degree is along the lines of a professional doctorate. B. Bencomo stated that it would eventually require external accreditation. Dr. Durán stated that they are not engaged in that effort right now. The Provost stated that the Psychology Department was given release time to investigate the PsyD. D. Pan stated that L. Heflin did an analysis and determined that HU does not currently have the infrastructure to support the degree. The Provost also stated that there has been a discussion of the EdD in the School of Education. Dr. Earick added that it is an exciting discussion.

**13.** Late Additions to the Agenda (minor items only)

**14.** Next meeting – September 15, 2021

**15.** Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:54.