**YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY**

**College of Graduate Studies**

**Wednesday, May 25, 2022**

**4:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

**TEAMS – Video and Recording Transcripts**

Present: Valerie O’Dell, Chair, Patrick Bateman, Christopher Bellas, Joe Carucci, Kendra Fowler, Douglas Genna, Jake Protivnak, Virgil Solomon, Sal Sanders, Angie Urmson Jeffries, Linda Hulburt-Blosser

Excused: Lauren Cummins, J. Paul Louth, Tomi Ovaska,

Not Attending: GSAC – Graduate Student Advisory Council Representatives: Theresa Gorospe, Gabrielle E. Jones, and Joseph Spurio.

Guest: Nate Myers, Associate Provost, International Programs

The meeting was called to order by Valerie O’Dell, Chair, when a quorum had been met.

1. The meeting minutes for April 27, 2022, were approved by evote.

(7 Approve, 0 Approve with edit, 0 Abstain)

1. Committee Chair reports
   1. Admission and Appeals Committee Chair: Submitted by J. Paul Louth

The Admission and Appeals Committee heard two appeals from applicants that did not graduate from a regionally accredited undergraduate institution. The committee supported the first appeal from an applicant pursuing the Ed Admin with Principal License who graduated from Ashworth College. The committee denied the second appeal from an applicant pursuing an MBA who graduated from Lutheran Theological Seminary because that institution uses a CR/NCR system with no grades, therefore there was no GPA or test scores that could be used to decide in place of state accreditation.

* 1. Graduate Curriculum Chair: Virgil Solomon-

Virgil reported the committee may have end-of-the-year items for review via evote.

* 1. Exceptions Chair: Sal Sanders

There were no exceptions requested since our last report.

* 1. Grievance Chair: Christopher Bellas

No Grievances to report at this time.

* 1. GSAC: Theresa Gorospe, Gabrielle E. Jones, and Joseph Spurio

No report. Looking forward to some new students joining us in August. Joseph Spurio graduated in Spring 2022.

1. Changes to International GPA requirement (Nate Myers) - Admissions

Sal Sanders talked about some changes to our admissions criteria and especially credential evaluations. We are considering using classifications rather than GPA as part of our credential review process for admission for international applicants. We have invited Nate Myers to our meeting to share his expertise with us.

**See PowerPoint attachment with (2) Proposals regarding:**

**South Asian Credential Evaluation Overview.**

Nate’s presentation included the introduction of a unified 10-point grading system that devised four (4) classifications of degrees to be awarded. They are:

**First Class with Honours Diploma** -generally indicates that the students are at the very highest (top 10% or higher) of their class.

**First Class Diploma** - indicates that the students are among the top quarter of their class.

**Second Class Diploma** - indicates student performance that is adequate, but not distinguished.

**Third Class Diploma (also called Pass Class)** indicates that the student barely graduated.

He provided examples of several universities and their statistics and concluded that most all meet YSU Graduate Admission criteria of 2.7 GPA.

**Proposal #1 is to change YSU Graduate Admission Policy for 10 Point Scale applicants using the following criteria.**

1. “For applicants graduating from an accredited post-secondary bachelor’s program adhering to a 10-point scale, YSU will consider *First Class with Honours / Distinction* and *First Class* degrees as admissible and to exceed YSU’s minimum admission criteria for Grade Point Average (GPA).”

2) ”For applicants graduating from an accredited post-secondary bachelor’s program adhering to a 10-point scale, YSU will review *Second Class* diplomas on a case-by-case basis. *Second Class* degree applicants will be admitted on a case-by-case basis, upon review of their transcripts.”

3) “Applicants graduating from an accredited post-secondary bachelor’s program adhering to a 10-point scale who present a *Third / Pass Class* diploma are not eligible for admission to YSU’s graduate programs.”

Following Proposal #1 – The Graduate Council members were provided an opportunity to ask questions, verification, and/or concerns following his presentation of Proposal #1.

**Proposal #2: Change transcript requirement from 7 completed semesters to 6 completed semesters.**

Currently, the College of Graduate Studies requires 7 completed semesters to act upon an application for graduate study. We propose to change this requirement to 6 semesters because it is saving time and does not harm quality.

This will facilitate the timely processing of applications and issuance of immigration documents.

This is a low-risk maneuver that saves time and increases our potential for enrollment.

Other US institutions which admit graduating programs based on 6 semesters include:

Univ. of Illinois (Springfield)

Univ. of the Pacific

Gonzaga University

Adelphi University

Elmhurst University

Following Proposal #2 – The Graduate Council members were provided an opportunity to ask questions, verification, and/or concerns following his presentation of Proposal #1.

Jake Protivnak made the motion to approve both proposals together. Virgil Solomon seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously with all members present,

(8 approved, 0 opposed, and 0 Abstain.)

**See Attachment #1 for the Draft document OR view it on Teams Directly**

1. Changes to Provisional Suspension Policy – Continued discussion

**Suggested changes submitted by Dean Sal Sanders at the April 2022 meeting.**

Current: Regularly admitted students who are “not in good standing” will be academically suspended if their semester GPA is below 3.0 for more than one semester.

Current: Provisionally admitted graduate students must maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale). Provisional students whose GPA falls below 3.0 will be academically suspended.

Proposed: Graduate students who are “not in good standing” will be academically suspended if their semester GPA is below 3.0 for more than one semester.

**Patrick Bateman – Continued discussion**

Patrick Bateman provided a draft document regarding the Academic Standards – Provisional Suspension Policy for the Council Members to review. The discussion was focused on how to streamline the review process for academic standing and satisfactory academic progress.

**See Attachment #2 for the Draft document OR view it on Teams Directly**

This information is based on what is currently in the catalog which includes criteria that must be maintained for Satisfactory Academic Progress at the graduate level.

Students may transfer and switch majors or programs, and they can petition to have courses excluded from their GPA if they didn’t do well. These courses are excluded if they are not part of the new program.

Academic Suspension is defined as a graduate student who is not maintaining satisfactory academic progress as determined by the academic program director or department chairperson and the graduate dean and may be excluded from registration and dropped from the program in which the student is enrolled. Such action constitutes academic dismissal from the College of Graduate Studies. Regularly admitted students who are “not in good standing” will be academically suspended if their semester GPA is below 3.0 for more than one semester. If a student withdraws “W” this automatically comes off their GPA.

A provisionally admitted student must receive a grade point average of at least a 3.0 and a provisional student whose GPA falls below a 3.0 will be academically suspended.

It would be better if the graduate students who are “not in good standing” will be academically suspended if their semester GPA is below 3.0 for more than one semester. We need to give the student a full chance to be successful.

The first nine semester hours are important, but it was suggested to have credit-based increments as opposed to semester-based given a lot of programs that are part-time students. It would be better to do away with checking in every semester and shift more toward doing the review based on credit as students are more likely to stay consistent after three semesters.

The graduate academic program director and department chairperson could determine whether or not a student is not making sufficient academic progress. This is an especially important issue like thesis and dissertations or clinical performance as they are knowledgeable and experts in that area of study. Graduate students should be reviewed at regular intervals in the program. Any unusual circumstances would be reviewed on an individual basis.

There was some support for having a student regardless of the entering status of a student, once they enter a period of ‘not in good standing’ would support the 9-semester time frame instead of a semester for them to improve their GPA to get back in good standing or to stay in not good standing and thus be removed from the master’s program or College of Graduate Studies.

Due to time constraints, this discussion will continue at a later meeting.

1. Grad Council Chair Nomination – Angie Urmson Jeffries

In keeping with tradition, the Chair of the Graduate Council for the following year is elected during the last meeting. We will elect the other officers when we come back in August 2022.

Jake Protivnak nominated Valerie O’Dell to continue chairing the Graduate Council meetings and Virgil Solomon seconded the motion. The motion passed with all members in attendance with no objections or abstentions. (8 approved, 0 opposed, and 0 Abstain.)

Valerie O’Dell accepted the nomination as Chair for the 2022-2023 academic year.

1. Dean Sanders’s comments - No comments at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.

Linda Hulburt Blosser

Linda A. Hulburt Blosser, Academic Ops Specialist2

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**Attachments #1– Changes to International GPA Requirements Presentation –**

**Nate Myers, Associate Provost**



**Attachment #2 – DRAFT – Academic Standards – Provisional Suspension Policy**

**Attachment #2 Draft -Academic Standards – Provisional Suspension Policy – Continuing Discussion - Presented by Patrick Bateman at the 5/25/2022 Graduate Council Meeting**

***Academic Standards***

**A cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) is required for graduation. All graduate courses taken at YSU are included in the grade point average calculation (see Grading System for grades less than C). Good academic standing for graduate students is a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) for all graduate credit courses taken at YSU.**

**SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS**

**Satisfactory academic progress at the graduate level is maintained by satisfying the following criteria:**

* A degree-seeking graduate student must maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale). Any required course grade of D or F must be repeated and passed with a grade of C or better.
* A degree-seeking graduate student must successfully meet the requirements, including the time requirement, of all comprehensive examinations of the degree program.
* A degree-seeking graduate student must complete with a passing grade any thesis requirements (or the equivalent) of the degree program.
* A non-degree graduate student must maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale).

**ACADEMIC SUSPENSION**

**A graduate student who is not maintaining satisfactory academic progress as determined by the graduate academic program director or department chairperson and graduate dean may be excluded from registration and dropped from the program in which the student ~~or she~~ is enrolled. Such action constitutes academic dismissal from the College of Graduate Studies.**

**Regularly admitted students who are “not in good standing” will be academically suspended if their semester GPA is below 3.0 for more than one semester.**

**EVALUATION OF SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS**

**All graduate students will be subject to an Evaluation of Satisfactory Academic Progress (ESAP), which will occur at regular intervals in the program. The ESAP will occur after the semester in which the student has completed a total of nine (9), eighteen (18), and twenty-seven (27) credit hours of coursework attempted~~???~~ in the program.  At the time of the ESAP:**

* ***Provisionally* admitted graduate students must possess a ~~minimum~~ grade point average of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale). Provisional students whose GPA ~~falls~~ below 3.0 will be academically suspended.**
* ***Regularly* admitted must possess a grade point average of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale). Regularly admitted students whose GPA is below 3.0 will be placed on academic probation.**
* ***Probationary* students must possess a grade point average of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) at the time of the satisfactory academic progress evaluation to be reinstated to regular status. Provisional students whose GPA is below 3.0 at the time of the satisfactory academic progress evaluation will be academically suspended.**
* ***Provisionally admitted OR regularly admitted students with a GPA below 1.0 will be academically suspended.***

**Students who fail to pass a comprehensive exam after three attempts will be academically suspended.**

**Any student in non-degree status whose cumulative grade point average drops below the minimum (3.0) will be prohibited from enrolling in further graduate coursework.**

**Registration for any session or continuous registration during a full summer counts as one semester for these purposes.**

**A graduate program may utilize additional academic standards to determine satisfactory academic progress and/or standards for academic suspension; however, such standards must be distributed in writing to all graduate students in the program and must be approved by the ean of The College of Graduate Studies.**

**READMISSION PROCEDURES**

* Under exceptional circumstances and with the approval of the Dean of The College of Graduate Studies, a program may readmit a suspended student. In such cases, the normal six-year limitation on coursework shall be applied.
* Graduate students suspended for failing to maintain satisfactory academic progress may appeal their suspensions within one year in writing to the Graduate Council. The decision of the Council is final.
* A graduate student who has been suspended for academic reasons may reapply to the College of Graduate Studies to begin a new degree program or to pursue studies in non-degree status. A readmitted graduate student is not permitted to register for any courses offered by the program from which he or she was academically suspended.

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