**YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Graduate Council Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting date: January 24, 2024 @ 4:00 pm**

**TEAMS**

Attending: Douglas Genna, Chair, Christopher Bellas, Joseph Carucci, Lauren Cummins, Kendra Fowler, Vincent Hepola (student representative), J. Paul Louth, Jake Protivnak, Sal Sanders, Constantin Virgil Solomon, Angie Urmson Jeffries,

Excused: Patrick J. Bateman, Valerie O’Dell, Carlie Geyer (student representative)

Douglas Genna called the Graduate Council meeting to order when the required number of faculty joined the meeting.

1. The November Graduate Council minutes were approved via evote. (7 Approve, 0 Approve with edit, 1 Abstain)
2. Committee Chair reports
	1. Admission and Appeals Committee Chair: J. Paul Louth

The Admission and Appeals Committee heard an appeal of academic suspension from a student in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program. After weighing the program’s position and the student’s position, the Appeals Committee denied the appeal.

There was a request to review an appeal of admission to the Master of Respiratory Care program from a non-regionally accredited undergrad institution: St. Louis College of Health Careers. The committee approved the appeal and allowed the applicant to move through the admission process

 b. Graduate Curriculum Chair: Virgil Solomon

The Committee will send items for evote later this week

 c. Exceptions Chair: Sal Sanders

 Sal Sanders reported the Committee had no exceptions this month.

 d. Grievance Chair: Christopher Bellas

 Christopher Bellas reported the Committee had no grievances to report this month.

 e. GSAC – Vincent Hepola

 Vincent Hepola reported that the GSAC committee is scheduled to meet on 2/6/24

1. Provisional admission permitted for GA appointments

Dean Sanders opened the discussion regarding removing the policy prohibiting provisional admitted students to be offered a Graduate Assistant appointment. He reported that he often makes exceptions to this policy and feels that the program director is in the best position to offer the GA appointments to the most qualified students. Graduate Council members agreed and stated they believed it was best for the programs themselves to monitor the GA appointment recommendations in relation to admission status. A motion was made to remove the policy prohibiting provisional admits from being offered GA appointments. The motion was unanimously approved.

1. Requirement: At least one half of degree requirements are 6900-level or higher. Does this include certificates?

Dean Sanders explained that programs are offering a large number of 5800-level/swing courses to be efficient. Our graduate **degree requirements** require at least half of the courses be at 6900-level. CCGS requirements state at least one half of **graduate programs** are at 6900-level or higher. Dean Sanders raised the question: does our policy explicitly apply to graduate certificates? Discussion continued regarding course efficiency. Dean Sanders explained that undergraduates can be permitted to take a 6900-level course by meeting certain requirements and submitting the necessary form. It was clarified that there is a 2.7 GPA requirement for an undergraduate to take a graduate course, but this is not unrealistically high. This would allow for the same efficiently. It was stated that we need to specify that this policy applies to our graduate certificates. This requirement makes sense as these certificates are graduate level. A motion was made that graduate certificate requirements be comprised of at least one half 6900-level courses or higher. The motion was unanimously approved.

1. Discussion: 9-hour requirement for GAs

Full time status for a graduate student is 6 hours. The minimum enrollment requirement for Graduate Assistants is 9 hours. Dean Sanders is granting many exceptions to this policy. Dean Sanders would like programs to encourage students’ timely completion of the program requirements but understands some semesters the program is not designed to have 9 hours available. The members agreed that situations arise when taking 9 hours is not possible. A motion was made to change the GA enrollment requirement from 9 hours to full time. The motion was unanimously approved.

1. Dean Sanders’s comments

Dean Sanders thanked Council for their work with graduate students. Not only are we recruiting and enrolling more graduate students but we are also seeing these students successfully through graduation. The fall graduate commencement ceremony was very well attended. Also, our spring enrollment is higher than our fall enrollment for the third year in a row. This is impressive and is helping with the overall university enrollment. He recognized the Council’s role in these successes.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:32.