

GRADUATE COUNCIL
Winthrop University
Tuesday, September 5, 2023
Tillman 308

Dustin Hoffman, Nicholas Moellman, Jack DeRochi, Vanessa Valdez, Gina Jones, Chris Ward, Cody Walters, Stephanie Sutton, Adam Glover, Sherry Hoyle, Lisa Harris and Gabby Jacobsen

I. Announcements

DH (Dustin Hoffman): We are still waiting to fill one voting member position. We also have student member positions, and I think those should be nominated from Jack. JD (Jack DeRochi): yes, I will appointment. I'll reach out to Lisa and Lorrie. SS (Stephanie Sutton): you're waiting to hear from the CVPA? JD: if you want to talk to Lorrie and get me a name.

II. Approval of minutes April 18, 2023. See the link below for minutes:

<https://www.winthrop.edu/uploadedFiles/graduateschool/applicationforms/Graduate-Council-Minutes-4-18-23.pdf>

Motion to approve: NM (Nicholas Moellman), Second: SS. Approved by acclamation vote.

III. Report from the Graduate School Dean, Jack DeRochi

JD: we're most focused on enrollment, and I'm pleased where we ended up. In June there was a lot of concern about where we'd end up. For budget purposes we said 740 was the floor, and as of this morning we're at 787. Basically there's a breakdown of the enrollment with new campus-based, new online, and returning in both of those. We're pleased to see high yield rates on all four avenues. We're at 91% retention rates, and a high retention rate is the reason we're able to get to 787. The other thing we did in the grad office, Hunter Huggins and Brantley Therrell revised some actions in Slate, which is prompting more students more often to finish their applications and get their materials submitted. The highest yield rate jump that we say were students who started an application and those who finished and got all their materials in. As a Grad School Office the goal is to build the best mousetraps to better serve those program. Obviously the program directors and faculty did well. That being said we're still down 10%. We were at 880 this time last year. The reasons, and national data confirms this, is COVID really was a sugar-high. Big spikes, particularly in online programs. It was going up already but really went off, and now it's going back down. We really want to be at 800/850. We were at 1000 and that's not sustainable, and they are now all graduating. The trends nationally are that online is overtaking campus-based. That's not a surprise to see in the data. By 2026 that gap is expanding larger. Masters programs – 58/60% are 100% online. When students are surveyed about what programs they are interested in, it's online or partially online. What happens is that when they enroll, if the 100% online program is what they need they are going to do that. There's a higher percentage choosing online even if their preference is somewhere in the middle. 76% surveyed are seeking masters for career advancement. These are things to think about. I bring that up as we're in the middle of strategic planning and each area are thinking about program development. Make sure that we're aware of that data now. I encourage you

to attend those town halls. We need to have big voices in that process. We have a lot of work to do as an institution, and use the Gray data as a tool. If grad programs are struggling, it's not an indictment on the courses, or quality of the faculty. It's just the market is telling us that we don't want Winthrop to teach that. The market is telling us to do something different. Many of us are in burnout and it's tough to think about revisions. We want to move towards evidence-based strategic decision making. We've got to base it on evidence. SH (Sherry Hoyle): and discussion in the strategic planning for Winthrop to provide the technical support to offer that 100% online? JD: yes, and CBE is bringing that more to the forefront. SH: I know that IT is very understaffed. JD: we need to hit a spot of balance where we have the revenue to afford the staff but we need the staff to get the revenue. As the partnership with Wiley changes, we've just signed on for a 3rd suite coming, and that's exciting. But we're on contract through 2027. We're not the same university as we were in 2013. We'd rather do fee for service on this, and we can handle the instruction design. A long way to answer, yes. DH: somewhat unrelated, is there an update on the grad student funding for next academic year. Are we able to retain the funds or any talks about it being reduced? JD: we're pretty sure it's not going anywhere. But we do need to address the inequity – we're going to try and figure that out. Lisa and all of us on the Dean's Council are passionate about that. Many areas are having a hard time hiring. It might be that we eliminate a few to get everyone paid the same.

IV. Old Business – None

V. New Business

a. 2023-2024 Vice Chair Election

DH: we put this off last academic year, but I need a friend. Who would want to be Vice Chair? It is a pretty low stakes position, but it looks nice going up for promotion. Any nominations? Tim had noted last year that traditionally the Vice Chair stepped in for the Chair, but I'll say I'm here till 2025, and I'd be happy to stay in this role. Not to put you on the spot, Stephanie. It would just be that if I'm not here you'd step in. If you'd accept. SS: I mean, ok. SH: I'll nominate Stephanie. DH: I'll second. Approved by acclimation vote.

DH: an important reminder that continuous improvement reports are due September 15th. No new news about how those are handled.

VV (Vanessa Valdez): regarding petitions, since we don't have a vote, do you need contextual or additional information, or would you rather us not say anything? DH: the forms do have a note for justification, but I'd be open to additional context and once we vote we'd have to send you out. But if you wanted to stay around at the start. VV: I know it's hard sometimes just reading things. DH: that's appreciated. I'd welcome that. SS: I feel like the last few rounds we've had to go back to Brantley for clarification. NM: more info is preferred to less.

- VI. Curriculum action – Please review these prior to the meeting by logging into [Coursedog](#)

Curriculum Changes Requiring a Vote:

Edit Course ACCT 502 Corporate Tax

Description: Concepts and methods of determining tax liability of corporations. Topics include ordinary income, capital gains and losses, net operating loss, reorganizations and contemporary problems in corporate taxation. Prerequisites: Grade of C- or better in ACCT 306 and 401. All ACCT courses numbered above 299 have a prerequisite of junior status, an overall GPA of at least 2.00 and a grade of C- or better in HXMP 102.

Justification - We are changing the course number from ACCT 502 to ACCT 602 and inactivating ACCT 502. See ACCT 602.

Create New Course ACCT 602 Corporate Tax

Description: The course focuses on business entities including Corporations, Partnerships, S-Corporations, Limited Liability Companies, Tax Exempt Entities and Estates and Trusts. In particular, it focuses on the capital structures of each with emphasis on the initial capitalization and distributions/liquidations. Prerequisites: ACCT 306 and ACCT 401. Graduate Status.

Justification - We are changing the course number from ACCT 502 to ACCT 602. The AFE faculty would like to see a better distinction between our undergraduate and graduate ACCT courses with an emphasis on preparing students for the CPA exam in graduate courses. Students will be administered a CPA review quiz at the end of the semester which will count towards the course grade.

DH: I think that we can vote on these together. Gina is that ok? GJ (Gina Jones): yes, that's fine. I didn't feel like the justification was enough so I added to the 502, I thought we needed more context. If you got a ding in your email, that's the edit.

DH: motion to approve? SH, Second: NM. Approved by acclimation vote.

Edit course EDCI 595 Intro to Curr & Inst for Gift

Description: The course content includes an understanding of both the theoretical and practical implementation of the appropriate curricular and instructional approaches for gifted learners. Adaptations and modifications to general methods and strategies will be included. Notes: Offered fall, spring, and summer. Previously offered as EDUC595. Prerequisite: 2.75 GPA; not open to freshmen.

Grade Mode Change: Regular Letter Grade, Transfer

Justification - EDCI 594 provides a theoretical overview of the nature and needs of Gifted and Talented Students. This foundational knowledge is essential to craft appropriate instructional plans to meet the unique characteristics of gifted learners, which is the focus of EDCI 595.

DH: is this just a letter grade change? GJ: a prerequisite change. DH: can you clarify that change? GJ: 594 is now a prerequisite. LH (Lisa Harris): before they could take them concurrently but now we want to make it a prerequisite because they aren't coming in with what they need. NM: it just mentions it's a prerequisite. GJ: if you click on the changes it will show a difference in the right and left side. Change to add 594 as the prerequisite. CourseDog and Banner don't relate to – it's not wrong but we'll add whatever we have to correct it. SH: it's not a new course? LH: no. All electives. Added on for gifted endorsements. It's an elective for a variety of courses. Including MAT which isn't offered as a grad.

DH: motion to approve? SH, Second: SS. Approved by acclamation vote.

Modify Program MBA in Bus Admin-Acct & Analyl

Program Description: The Master of Business Administration in Accounting and Analytics provides graduate business education of high quality. Its innovative curriculum prepares students to assume responsible positions as leaders in the dynamic and varied organizations of the twenty-first century. To this end, the program promotes the following objectives: accountability, adaptability, analytical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, communication, and accounting, analytics, and technology expertise. Students from a variety of educational, managerial and professional backgrounds participate in and enhance the educational experience. Internationally accredited, the program is taught by a faculty committed to excellence in teaching and research.

Justification - Our goal is to make adjustments to (i) better reflect the new CPA exam format (three Core parts + one Discipline, each including analytics and research, which begins in 2024), (ii) increase rigor by integrating CPA Review quizzes into Core courses as a component of each Core course grade, and (iii) restructure certificates to better align them with the micro- certificates offered in the general MBA and eliminate certain certificate fees. The Business Analytics micro-certificate in the MBA-Acct & Analytics is the same as the Business Analytics micro-certificate in the general MBA. We made the change because accounting students were taking the same three classes as the general MBA students, but not earning this micro- certificate along the way, due to the way we initially structured our accounting analytics certificate, which required an extra class. The new micro-certificate in Accounting Analytics (AA) is a result of this restructuring. Given the addition of the new course in Financial Data Analytics and modification to the course in Accounting Research, the AA micro-certificate is a much better fit for our program because it aligns better with the new CPA exam content, which will test analytics and research skills.

DH: as I was reading, it looks like further distinguishing the accounting analytics from the overall MBA and making sure the micro-certificate happens. VV: the accounting and analytics, we wanted to change one of the certificates to a micro-certificate so that they don't have to pay for it. The other change is to modules, we have a few that mimic the CPA exam. So rather than modules for a program, we embodied them in a course. So they don't have to pay for certificates on their transcript since they aren't taking additional courses. GJ: this is wonderful news.

DH: motion to approve? NM, Second: DH/SS. Approved by acclimation vote.

VII. Graduate Petitions (only voting members receive these)

Petitions requiring a vote:

Petition 1 – Academic Forgiveness

Motion to approve: NM, Second: SH/SS. Approved by acclimation vote.

Petition 2 and 3 (*late additions*)

Motion to approve: NM, Second: SS. SH abstained. Approved by acclimation vote.

VIII. Adjournment

2023-2024 Meeting Dates

Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 11:00 am
Friday, October 20, 2023 at 2:00 pm
Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 11:00 am
Friday, January 19, 2024 at 2:00 pm
Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 11:00 am
Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 11:00 am

Graduate Faculty Assembly and Graduate Council Website:

<https://www.winthrop.edu/graduateschool/graduate-faculty-governance.aspx>

CourseDog

<https://app.coursedog.com/#/login>

2023-2024 Committee			
Voting Members <i>*The voting members of the Graduate Council also serve as the Graduate Petitions Committee.</i>			Term Expires
Dustin Hoffman, CAS, Chair	hoffmand@winthrop.edu	Elected (CAS)	2025
Nicholas Moellman, CBA	moellmann@winthrop.edu	Elected (CBA)	2024
Tony Strange, COE	strangea@winthrop.edu	Appointed (VPAA)	2024

Stephanie Sutton	suttons@winthrop.edu	Elected (CVPA)	2025
Sherry Hoyle, COE	hoyles@winthrop.edu	Elected (COE)	2024
Ex Officio, non-voting, and other invitees			
Cody Walters	waltersw@winthrop.edu	Elected, Library Faculty, Non-voting	2024
Chris Ward	wardc@winthrop.edu	Elected, GFA (from CUC), Ex Officio	2026
Jack DeRochi	derochij@winthrop.edu	Dean of Graduate Studies, Online Learning, and Extended Education	
Gabby Jacobson	jacobseng@winthrop.edu	Grad School, Appointed Ex Officio	--
		Student, COE Appt. Ex Officio	
		Student, CVPA Appt. Ex Officio	
Tracy Griggs	griggst@winthrop.edu	GFA Chair	
Tim Druke	drueket@winthrop.edu	Assistant Provost for Curriculum and Program Support	
Gina Jones	jonesgg@winthrop.edu	Registrar	
Maria D'Agostino	dagostinom@winthrop.edu	Associate Registrar	
Lori Crochet	crochetl@winthrop.edu	Graduate Director, CVPA	
Greg Oakes	oakesm@winthrop.edu	Graduate Director, CAS	
Lisa Harris	harrisl@winthrop.edu	Graduate Director, COE	
Vanessa Valdez	valdezv@winthrop.edu	Graduate Director, CBA	
Brantley Therrell	therrellb@winthrop.edu	Graduate Petitions Coordinator	
Adam Glover	glovera@winthrop.edu	Faculty Conference Chair	