

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes
09/14/2022– 3:30-5:00 p.m.

ZOOM LINK: <https://uidaho.zoom.us/j/81521354062?from=addon>

x	Jerry McMurtry	x	Evan Williamson (Library)	x	Grant Harley (COS) 2024
x	Chris Ludwig (EHHS) 2024		Pedram Rezamand (At-Large/CALS) 2023		John Cannon (At-Large/EHHS Boise) 2025
x	Linda Chen (CBE) 2023	x	Kelly Quinnett (CLASS) 2023		TBA (ENGR) 2025
	TBA (CAA)2025	x	Leda Kobziar for Kerri Vierling (CNR/ENVS) 2023		Carson Silsby (GPSA)
x	Paul Hohenlohe (UWP) 2024		Dan Strawn (CALS) 2023		Adamarie Marquez Acevedo (GPSA)
x	Sarah Wu (At Large/ENGR) 2024				

- I. Minutes from May 4, 2022, approved. Unanimous. (1 abstention).

- II. Announcements
 - a. Back to October 12th for next meeting—regular time
 - b. Post Doc Awareness Week Stacy N. and Alex of postdoc assoc. hosting
 - c. COGS Staff Update: Taylor Brady, Michael Decker, Molly Patterson on board
 - d. Enrollment Data: Up in Grad and UG. First timers down by 87, but up overall by 8. Need to make it up. Question on non-thesis/thesis and campus breakdown. Report next time.
 - e. UFM first meeting Monday, 9/19 at 3PM
 - f. <https://www.lib.uidaho.edu/datahub/> Datahub soft launch

- III. Old Business
 - a. Curriculum items: none
 - b. Graduate Admissions: Transcripts requirement discussed. Applicants who hold a post-bachelor’s degree: transcripts from institutions where less than 18 semester hours have been earned and each course work and grades obtained appear on a different transcript as transfer credits will not be required. If a request to transfer credits into a graduate degree at the University of Idaho is requested, the official transcript will be required. Vote: 8 approve. Passed.

- IV. New Business
 - a. Language for VA Funding for catalog insertion:
 - i. To mitigate future challenges, I would like the Registrar’s Office to add a sentence to the UI General Catalog for each of the graduate program descriptions. Our programs get approved for application of VA funds based on the information provided in the catalog, and I believe (ran this proposal through the VA (State Approving Agency) in Boise) that the following would work to tie our general catalog to the more descriptive handbooks:

Please see the [insert the name of the applicable handbook; for example, “Graduate Student and Faculty Advisor Handbook, Waters of the West Graduate Education & Research Program”] **for details and program requirements on earning the** [insert the degree and program; for example, “Ph.D. in Water Resources – Science & Management”] degree.

- ii. This would link the two references, and we would provide the VA/SAA with copies of the referenced handbooks to allow them to explore program details not resident in the general catalog. If you concur, we'll move forward with catalog adjustments.
 - iii. PUSH for department to update and put on webpages.
- b. Discuss: Placing a limit on directed study credits on a study plan.
Suggestion: Limit to 9 DS max. 6 non-thesis, so that only half the program would be with the same professor. Put language together for next meeting.
 - c. Petition for visiting Creative Writing faculty to serve as grad faculty—program shortfall (attachment) Propose to chair and committees, but not officially appointed to GF, exception to serve as MP. Visiting Instructors outside the policy-no need for GF. R1 focus-unintended consequences, accreditation issues, uphold integrity of grad fac.
Approved to serve as English and Creative Writing MPs or committee member, but not considered Grad Faculty.
 - d. Graduate Admissions: Statement of Purpose/Question and Number of Recommendations
 - 1. Replace the Statement of Purpose (SOP) requirement with questions in a Slate form for Vandal Expedited and non-thesis (professional) master's programs. Each program can configure their own questions.

Examples provided but all are customizable for each program:

- a) When did you become interested in this field?
- b) Why are you well suited to this field?
- c) Why do you want to attend graduate school?
- d) What are your long-term career goals?
- e) Where do you envision yourself after earning your graduate degree?

Many students do not complete their application due to the SOP. I have called students to offer help with the SOP and they all would prefer to respond to questions in a form.

- 2. Discussion to reduce the number of letters of recommendation to 2 for professional (non-thesis) master's programs. No vote just in the conversation stage to ask DGS representatives. Other options. Questionnaires, Likert scale ratings, and each department can have their own questions to ask their recommenders to generate desired answers to make informed decisions on applicants.
Slate has exciting capabilities, and can be tailored to each program, opportunity to make admission process meaningful.
Start having conversations moving that way. Other items available: faculty portal, viewbooks, recruitment tools, and such discussed.

Adjourned at 4:35 p.m.