

Graduate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
January 20, 2022  
MEETING LOCATION: Online through Microsoft TEAMS

Present: Becky da Cruz, David Nelson, Beibei Lin, Ellis Heath, Matthew Carter, John Lairsey, Anne Greenfield, Dixie Haggard, Luis Bejarano, Keith Lee, Anne Price, Michelle Ritter, Michael Webster, Mitch Lockhart, Matt Grant, Chris Downing

Proxies: Ellis Heath for Linda Most.

Guests: Crystal Marshall, Colette Drouillard, Renee Whitmer, Karla Hall, Rebecca Petrella, Darli DeVane, Karen Higgs, Ashleigh Stevens.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Becky da Cruz at 2:01 pm.

Minutes from December 2, 2021 were approved. John Lairsey motioned to approve. David Nelson seconded. Motion passed: 12 approved - 0 opposed – 0 abstained

Ashleigh Stevens and Karen Higgs from University Advising & Student Transitions did a presentation on CIVITAS. This new program was design for faculty to see how students are doing in their program. They demonstrated how to log into CIVITAS through the MyVSU portal. Faculty can create reports, setup appointments in the calendar, create advising notes and email students. Data feeds in nightly from Banner. Ashleigh stated the success portal is still available for now, but would go away at some point.

### **College of Education and Human Services**

#### Request for a Revised Course – CSD 5080: Dysphagia and Motor Speech Disorders:

The content of the course currently is not in alignment with the standard practices in the field. The two subject matters are taught in separate courses. Additionally, the dysphagia content has to be expanded to include the pediatric population and it must also include anatomical and physiological aspects of swallowing that span from the mouth to the pelvis.

David Nelson motioned to approve. Matt Carter seconded. Motion passed: 13 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

#### Request for a New Course – CSD 5240: Motor Speech Disorders:

This course emphasizes the neuromotor aspects of motor speech disorders as well as develops an understanding of the anatomy and physiology as it relates to the speech mechanism. Diagnostic principles with an emphasis on differential diagnosis are highlighted along with etiology and characteristics of motor speech disorders. Evidence-based intervention techniques are also highlighted.

David Nelson motioned to approve. Matt Carter seconded. Motion passed: 13 approved – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

Curriculum Change – MEd with Major in Communication Disorders:

The Dysphagia and Motor Speech course is being divided to better improve student learning outcomes. Currently the single course does not allow for content that is required by the accrediting agency. The ACED 2400 or 7400 are no longer mandated by the state certification program for CSD graduates to meet the requirements for certification in the educational setting.

David Nelson motioned to approve. Matt Carter seconded. Motion passed: 13 approve – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

Revised Catalog Copy – MEd with Major in Communication Disorders:

The admission requirements are being adjusted to increase the accessibility for prospective students who may not have an undergraduate degree in communication sciences and disorders but would like to obtain a master's degree in the area. This change may also increase recruitment efforts and the number of students who apply to the program.

David Nelson motioned to approve. Matt Carter seconded. Motion passed: 13 approved – 0 opposed- 0 abstained.

**College of Humanities and Social Sciences**

Revised Catalog Copy – MA & MAESLAT in English:

Recent studies (e.g., <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0169121>) have shown that an applicant's GRE score is not reliably predictive of a student's success in graduate school. In addition, the GRE has been found to be discriminatory against low-income and underrepresented applicants, who have less access to the time and money needed to undertake GRE preparation courses. The high cost of taking the GRE itself, at \$205.00, is also prohibitive for certain applicants. As a result of these findings, universities across the U.S. have increasingly omitted the GRE as a necessary component of graduate school applications. Because the English department's graduate programs require several other application materials that are more reliable in evaluating applicants (e.g., statement of intent, letters of reference, sample essay, minimum GPA, etc.), GRE scores should be made optional rather than required. Applicants will still be permitted to submit GRE scores as a supplement in the event that they do not meet the programs' minimum GPA requirements.

Anne Greenfield motioned to approve. David Nelson seconded. Motion passed: 12 approved – 0 opposed- 0 abstained.

Revised Catalog Copy – ESOL – Admission Requirements:

Admission to the Program Prior to admission to any graduate program at Valdosta State University, applicants must first submit a completed application to the Graduate School. A completed application packet includes official transcripts from all institutions previously attended, completed application form, fee, and any additional program requirements submitted by the admission deadline. Students will be eligible to enroll with a completed degree from an accredited program and a 2.75 GPA or higher in their undergraduate or graduate work (a minimum of 6 credit hours of graduate courses is required) or qualify for admission by

alternative pathways (see below). Students will also have to pass the GACE Program Admissions Assessment or exempt it and complete the Georgia Educator Ethics Assessment (Test 360) (To register: <https://gace.ets.org/ethics/register/>) To be considered for the preferred term, all required materials must be received by the Graduate School no later than the close of business on the deadline. It is the responsibility of the applicant to allow adequate time for document submission and to ensure receipt of documents. Admission Deadlines Fall Deadline: July 15 Spring Deadline: November 15 Summer Deadline: March 15 Requirements for the M.A.T. in English to Speakers of Other Languages.

Matt Grant motioned to approve. Michelle Ritter seconded. Motion passed: 14 approved – 0 opposed- 0 abstained.

Revised Catalog Copy – ESOL – Grad School Website:

Matt Grant motioned to approve. Michelle Ritter seconded. Motion passed: 14 approved – 0 opposed- 0 abstained.

Revised Catalog Copy – FLED - Admission Requirements:

Admission to the Program Prior to admission to any graduate program at Valdosta State University, applicants must first submit a completed application to the Graduate School. A completed application packet includes official transcripts from all institutions previously attended, completed application form, fee, and any additional program requirements submitted by the admission deadline. Students will be eligible to enroll with a completed degree in French or Spanish from an accredited program and a 2.75 GPA or higher in their undergraduate or graduate work (a minimum of 6 credit hours of graduate courses is required) or qualify for admission by alternative pathways (see below). Students will also have to pass the GACE Program Admissions Assessment or exempt it and complete the Georgia Educator Ethics Assessment (Test 360) (To register: <https://gace.ets.org/ethics/register/>) Students with a completed degree from an accredited program that is not in French or Spanish must take the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview and the Writing Proficiency Test (<https://www.actfl.org>) and score in the Advanced range. To be considered for the preferred term, all required materials must be received by the Graduate School no later than the close of business on the deadline. It is the responsibility of the applicant to allow adequate time for document submission and to ensure receipt of documents. Admission Deadlines Fall Deadline: July 15 Spring Deadline: November 15 Summer Deadline: March 15 Requirements for the M.A.T. in Foreign Language Education.

Matt Grant motioned to approve. Michelle Ritter seconded. Motion passed: 14 approved – 0 opposed- 0 abstained

Revised Catalog Copy – FLED – Grad School Website:

Matt Grant motioned to approve. Michelle Ritter seconded. Motion passed: 14 approved – 0 opposed- 0 abstained.

**Sub Committee Reports**

- **Graduate Student Success** – Dr. Downing stated the kick off went well. He thanked the committee for a job well done. The survey is out now.
- **Doctoral Program Sub-Committee**- No Report
- **Graduate Appeals**-No Report

- **Graduate Faculty Scholarship**-Spring deadline: February 18<sup>th</sup> There are still funds remaining from the fall. The Faculty was awarded \$5,375 total and students had five awards totaling \$1,554, so if you know of a student who needs funding for travel to a conference, please encourage them to apply. Faculty can be funded up to \$750 one time a year. This should be available again in the fall.
- **Graduate Faculty Membership**- No Report; however, the committee will be meeting next month to talk about the department chairs and Grad faculty status.

### Other Business/Topics from the floor

- **Graduate Admissions Update**- Moving forward with the new application. Radius has not been turned off. Radius will be closing on a rolling bases as deadlines approach. There is no firm date as to when this will end. The new review part of the portal is being finalized. Once it is finalized the login will be shared with everyone as well as the link and some training information. The Grad front office has an open position as A'Shondee Kinlaw took a job at another University. Her job has been posted. Linda DeCarlo, the Admission specialist, is leaving as well. She has taken a job in the advising office.
- **Update Graduate Applications**-SSN requirement for email etc. Issue resolved students do not need to use the SSN to get started. Students can state they do know their password or they do not know their password either way this will get them into the system. They will be asked some security questions that should help them get started as well. If a student gets asked to use their SSN they need to contact Rebecca so she can get it resolved.
- **Graduate Recruitment Day**: February 21<sup>st</sup> – Dr. da Cruz  
Some RSVP's have been submitted, but anyone who would like a table and have not RSVP yet, please notify Dr. da Cruz. Please encourage students to attend. Students are asked to RSVP if they plan to attend. There will be some grab bag items at the tables.
- **Graduate Enrollment & Marketing** (Ides: 1 x month Grad Program event)  
Looking for ways to market on how we can improve Grad enrollment. If you know of ways to help with marketing, please let us know. There are some funds we can use to help with this. We can do some program marketing as well.
- **Graduate Assistant Updates**- There is a time line for summer competitive allocation. The Summer GA is a competitively awarded position. Everyone who would like a GA for the summer has to apply through the competitive process. February 1<sup>st</sup> the call will go out on the GA applications. They are due back by February 18<sup>th</sup> The committee will work on this and the goal for decisions is March 11<sup>th</sup>, notification will go out. Every GA will need to be hired by April 8<sup>th</sup> Summer GA's will start on May 9<sup>th</sup>.
- **Graduate Student Research Symposium**: April 8<sup>th</sup>-Posters and 3MT  
Undergraduate symposium is Monday – Thursday of that same week. This will be in person this year. It will be located in the Student union ball rooms. Everyone needs to start thinking about who they would like to nominate for GA of the year and think about students who would be a good candidate for the Posters and 3 minute thesis. Calls will be going out soon. The board has asked to send the winner of the 3 minute thesis to Atlanta to present at their board meeting. The President and VP would like to send a very strong candidate. This will be funded. They will compete throughout the state of Georgia as well.
- **Listserv-Georgia Council of Graduate Schools** (<https://georgiacgs.org>)

Spring meeting: May 19-20 F2F. If you want to be added to the Listserv, please let Dr. da Cruz know.

- **AGS & SGA Updates-** Emily Brown, SGA rep. No Report. There are 4 planned workshops for the spring semester. They will be online. They will be recorded and uploaded to the Grad school website under the tab for student involvement.
- **Dr. da Cruz important information:** Peggy Mock has resigned from the committee. Dr. da Cruz will be looking for a replacement.

Curriculum items that come through DocuSign are getting held up. Dr. da Cruz does not need to sign them she only needs a PDF. Please send Darli DeVane a copy only, so she can get the agenda ready for the next meeting.

- **Items from the Floor-**

Crystal Marshall asked if they had something approved from the GEC committee last year and was unable to attend the academic committee meeting do they have to go back through the GEC committee this year? Dr. da Cruz state no and said it could have been approved by the academic committee. Crystal is going to check to see if this was approved. Dr. da Cruz stated if the academic committee had questions they would have reached out the her.

Motions was made to adjourn at 3:27 pm by Megan Arrastia-Chisholm

Next AC Meeting: February 14<sup>th</sup>

Next GEC meeting: February 17th

X *Darli DeVane*

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Darli DeVane  
Administrative Coordinator

X *Becky K. da Cruz*

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Dr. Becky da Cruz, Associate Provost  
for Graduate Studies & Research