

UNIVERSITY SENATE

Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2022

The University Senate was called to order at 3:30 p.m., Remote Access, on Monday March 28, 2021. Members absent: Eli Davies, Anna Ghazaryan, Logan Harvey, Spencer Izor, Shashi Lalvani, Michele Rosecrans, Vada Stephens, and Victoria Villanueva

Call to Order

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:30 with announcements by the Provost and Chair of Senate, Jason Osborne.
 - a. University Senate will begin meeting in person next week. The survey that was previously discussed was not sent due to the changes in state, count, and University masking mandates. A limited supply of masks will be available on a first come, first serve basis.
 - b. The last scheduled agenda item has been postponed at the request of the department.

Approval of University Senate Minutes

2. Approval of Senate Minutes:
 - i. A motion was received and seconded to approve the February 21, 2022 University Senate Minutes. (Yes 40; No 1; Abstain 0)
 - ii. A motion was received and seconded to approve the March 7, 2022 University Senate Minutes. (Yes 40; No 1; Abstain 0)

Consent Calendar

3. The following items were accepted and received on the Consent Calendar:
 - a. 03.28.2022 Curricular Items
 - b. Liberal Education Meeting Minutes – 02.18.2022
 - c. Student Life Council Meeting Minutes – 10.27.2021
 - d. Graduate Council Minutes – 01.27.2022

Special Reports

4. Special Report Presentation:
 - i. Undergraduate Success Initiatives – Amy Bergerson, Associate Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Education (see presentation slides)
 - i. A number of updates on the Office of Undergraduate Education were shared including a more in-depth look into the Office of Exploratory Studies that is engaging in a bit of a paradigm shift in an effort build a more integrated approach to academic advising.

Q: Can the *Experiential Majors Maps* be used with discipline-based 147 courses?

A: Yes, these maps could be utilized for these sorts of courses. It would be great to see students doing this from day one.

Q: Will the mapping be developed solely by the office or will they be engaging departments and programs as well?

A: Yes, they it will be developed with departments and programs. Templates will be created so that they can be easily adapted and maintained. The maps can be used with departments and programs and then tracked by the Office of Exploratory Studies to avoid placing too much burden on the individual offices.

Q: Regarding DFW rates – are there any conversations around reexamining upper level calculus courses specifically?

A: Calculus is typically one of courses that frequently can have high DFW rates. What is important is that these issues are addressed from both student-centered and faculty pedagogical approaches. We will also need to look at pre-reqs and ensure that they are accurately matched while maintaining high quality academic expectations and delivery

Q: How are the persistence groups defined?

A: Over all the university has excellent graduation and retention rates but we want to ensure that every student get the resources that they need to excel. In looking at the data we see, for instance, that students who come in undecided have slightly lower persistence and completion rates. We also know that Students of Color have slightly lower persistence and completion rates, so we're trying to focus on places where we see opportunities to make incremental improvements.

Old Business

5. Old Business:

- a. Proposed Graduate Education Policy Revisions – Mike Crowder, Associate Provost & Dean for Graduate Education
 - i. SR 22-xx Transfer Credit Policy_rev
 - ii. The motion was received and seconded without discussion. The resolution passed. (Yes 43; No 1; Abstain 0)

SR22-xx

Transfer Credit Policy Revisions

March 28, 2022

Policy Title: Graduate Students | Registration | Transfer Credit

Proposer Name, Title and Email: Amity Noltemeyer, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, anoltemeyer@miamioh.edu

Rationale: This policy revision proposal seeks to allow doctoral students to transfer graduate credit up to 10 years old at the time of their projected graduation (compared to the current policy which only allows graduate transfer credit up to 7 years old at the time of projected graduation). Currently, students in master's and educational specialist degree programs have up to 5 years to complete their degrees and transfer graduate credit can be accepted if it has been taken within 5 years of the projected graduation date. On the other hand, doctoral students have up to 10 years to complete their degrees, but graduate transfer credit can only be accepted if it has been taken within 7 years of their projected graduation date. It seems reasonable to allow transfer credit up to 10 years old at the time of expected graduation since doctoral students have 10 years to complete their degree programs.

Covered Parties: All graduate students and prospective graduate students.

Defined Terms: N/A

Proposed New or Revised Policy (Clean Version):

If a student earned credit for graduate-level courses at another accredited graduate school, he or she

may be able to apply that credit toward the degree. To apply credits to the degree, a student must have achieved the following:

- Received a “B” or better grade for the credits to be transferred.
- Taken the courses within five (5) years of the projected graduation date for the master’s and Specialist in Education (Ed.S.) degrees, and within ten (10) years of the projected graduation date for the doctorate degree. Note that these time limits do not refer to the age of the credit at the time of transfer.

Proposed Revised Policy (Marked Up Version):

If a student earned credit for graduate-level courses at another accredited graduate school, he or she may be able to apply that credit toward the degree. To apply credits to the degree, a student must have achieved the following:

- Received a “B” or better grade ~~an “A” or “B”~~ for the credits to be transferred.
- Taken the courses within five (5) years of the projected graduation date for the master’s and Specialist in Education (Ed.S.) degrees, and within ten (10) ~~seven (7)~~ years of the projected graduation date for the doctorate degree. Note that these time limits do not refer to the age of the credit at the time of transfer.

Effective Date: August 22, 2022

Responsible Parties: Senior Associate Registrar, General Counsel, Graduate School

Implementation Procedures and Timeline: If this policy is approved, all procedures for transfer credit will remain the same except credit could be considered up to 10 years old at the time of projected graduation for doctoral students (as opposed to up to 7 years old). Related Policies and References:

- [Current policy](#) (see Transfer Credit section)
 - [Graduate Credit Transfer Form](#)
- iii. SR 22-xx Graduate Level Standing Policy_rev
 - iv. The motion was received and seconded without discussion. The resolution passed. Yes 42; No 1; Abstain 1)

SR22-xx

Graduate Level Standing Policy Revisions

March 28, 2022

Policy Title: Determining Levels of Graduate Faculty Standing

Proposer Name, Title and Email: Amity Noltemeyer, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, anoltemeyer@miamioh.edu

Rationale: We are proposing to change the policy so that new probationary tenure-track faculty with terminal degrees are automatically granted Level A standing at the time they start in their positions (as opposed to having to apply for Level A standing later). The rationale is that these faculty would meet the qualifications for Graduate Level A status. The anticipated benefits to this proposed change include (a) reduced time spent on applications and approvals by faculty, chairs, deans, and the

Graduate School, and (b) quicker time to get new faculty qualified to engage with graduate students. Probationary, tenure-track faculty members without terminal degrees may still apply for Level A standing through the existing approval processes.

Covered Parties: Instructional Staff and Unclassified Staff

Defined Terms: N/A

Proposed New or Revised Policy (Clean Version):

Level A Graduate Standing Level A faculty must:

1. Hold a full-time, tenure-eligible or tenured position at Miami University,
2. Remain active scholars who regularly contribute to the advancement of knowledge in their disciplines.

Charged with interpreting those standards for the University, the Graduate School expects all faculty with Level A standing to provide evidence of disciplinary contributions that represent meaningful achievements in scholarship at our University. The appointment and reappointment to Level A standing is described below.

Initial Level A Appointment

At the time of hiring, all probationary, tenure-track faculty members with terminal degrees will be automatically appointed to Level A standing. Probationary, tenure-track faculty members without terminal degrees may request to be appointed Level A standing at the recommendation of the Chair/Program Director and Divisional Dean. Chairs and Deans will review each such request according to the criteria listed above, with final review and approval by the Dean of the Graduate School.

Proposed Revised Policy (Marked Up Version):

Level A Graduate Standing
Level A faculty must:

1. Hold a full-time, tenure-eligible or tenured position at Miami University, and
2. Remain active scholars who regularly contribute to the advancement of knowledge in their disciplines, and
- ~~3.2. Be consistently recognized by their disciplinary colleagues for those contributions.~~

Charged with interpreting those standards for the University, the Graduate School expects all faculty with applicants for Level A faculty standing to provide evidence of disciplinary contributions that represent the meaningful ~~highest~~ achievements in scholarship at our University. By nominating a faculty member for Level A standing, a Chair and Dean assert that the candidate has initially attained or subsequently maintained that level of scholarly activity. The criteria for Level A standing are determined at a local level by home departments but must remain consistent with the above stated criteria. The appointment and reappointment to Level A standing is described below.

Initial Level A Appointment

~~At the time of hiring, a~~All probationary, tenure-track faculty members with terminal degrees will be appointed to Level A standing. Probationary, tenure-track faculty members without terminal degrees may request to be appointed Level A standing ~~are appointed to Level A standing~~ at the recommendation of the Chair/Program Director and Divisional Dean. Chairs and Deans will review each such request~~new hire~~ according to the criteria listed above, with final review and approval by the Dean of the Graduate School.

Effective Date: July 1, 2022

Responsible Parties: Dean of the Graduate School; Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Implementation Procedures and Timeline: The revised policy would only apply to faculty hired with start dates of July 1, 2022 or later. If this policy revision is approved, the Graduate School will work with Academic Personnel to identify and notify faculty (who start in their positions after that date) who qualify for the automatic Level A standing. Faculty who do not qualify for automatic Level A standing but who meet the other Level A qualifications will continue to use the Graduate Faculty Level A Nomination Form (Form G-7) to request consideration for Level A standing. The Graduate School would communicate the policy change to all Chairs, Associate Deans, Graduate Directors, and Administrative Staff in graduate programs.

Related Policies and References:

- Miami University's existing policy on [Determining Levels of Graduate Faculty Standing](#)

v. 22-xx Combined Program & Graduate Credit Policy_rev_final

Q: Concerns were voiced that this will surprise BAMA students who are already into their eight (8) semesters and that some are reluctant to rely on the promises of support if they aren't in writing.

A: Students will pay current tuition for 8 semesters (3+1). If a student is doing a 4+1, they will need to pay graduate tuition. However, there is a House Bill that ensures that a student graduating from Miami can pay in-state tuition for graduate programs.

EMSS has said that they will continue to assist current (those admitted prior to July 2022) BAMA students. The University will be very flexible on petitions to the policy and will keep promises to students, but once this policy goes into effect they cannot use this as a way to motivate or recruit students going forward.

Q: Are there ways to formalize the language around Pell Grants and billing in the policy?

A: It isn't possible to introduce specific billing language into the policy. Any internal scholarships and Tuition guarantee will remain in place. External scholarships such as the Pell Grants do not allow students to use undergraduate scholarships for graduate programs.

- vi. The motion was received and seconded. The resolution passed. Yes (33; No 5; Abstain 8)

SR22-xx
Graduate Students Registration Policy Revisions
March 28, 2022

Policy Title: Graduate Students | Registration

Proposer Name, Title and Email: Michael Crowder, Dean of the Graduate School,
crowdemw@miamioh.edu

Rationale:

There are two distinct types of undergraduate (UG) students who take graduate courses at Miami University: (1) students enrolled in bachelor's/master's "combined programs," and (2) UG students who request permission to take graduate credit but are either not attempting to earn a graduate degree or are attempting to earn a graduate degree in a program that does not have a bachelor's/master's combined program. Miami's current policies relating to the student status (UG or G) and billing of these students are not aligned with other state universities; can result in inconsistent tracking, classification, and billing of students; and have resulted in lost revenue (e.g., in the form of state subsidies).

Currently, combined program UGs at Miami have the option to change from UG to G status (and receive their UG degree) before receiving their graduate degree, if they meet the required criteria to do so; however, this choice tends to be the exception rather than the norm. Instead, many combined program UGs earn their bachelor's and master's on the same day, remaining as UG status until they earn both degrees. For example, our review of data suggests that 58 of the 128 combined students who had a degree conferred (45.3%) in Spring 2021 received both their UG and G degree at the same time while having UG status. Because these students do not have graduate status, Miami does not receive any graduate state subsidy for the conferred Master's degree. In Fall 2021, there are 396 combined program students (55 Accountancy; 46 SLAM/KNH; 22 Political Science; 21 Computer Science; 22 IES). At an estimated subsidy loss of > \$10,300 per student, this is a significant loss of revenue for the university (estimated loss of \$597,400 in Spring 2021 alone).

Furthermore, expenses and revenues for new graduate programs may be inaccurately projected, threatening the viability of some programs since tuition revenue flows with student status rather than with courses and enrollment/revenue projections often do not account for students in UG status.

As mentioned, Miami is not in alignment with other state universities in when combined program or non-combined program students taking graduate courses transition to graduate status nor when they begin paying graduate tuition. For example, only one of the four state universities that responded to our inquiry indicated a combined student could possibly finish both the undergraduate and graduate degrees at the undergraduate tuition promise rate, and that was only under a very narrow set of circumstances (i.e., a subset of combined students). The remaining three universities capped the number of graduate credits that a student could take while they had undergraduate status at between 9-16 hours; thereafter, students are required to have graduate status and pay graduate tuition. One additional state university's written policy indicated that full-time undergraduate students taking 7 or more graduate hours (combined program or non-combined program) in a semester would be billed at the graduate rate (and thus not eligible for the undergraduate tuition promise).

Although we support undergraduate students taking graduate courses, it is important that their student classification (G or UG) match the level of study that they are actually pursuing. For example, a

combined program student who has completed all UG requirements and is in their final semester of the combined program taking only their four remaining graduate courses should be accurately classified as a graduate student. This is not necessarily the case within the context of the current policy.

Covered Parties: Graduate students and undergraduate students taking graduate credit

Defined Terms: “Combined program” is a term being used to describe students enrolled in any approved bachelor’s/master’s degree [Combined Program](#) at Miami University.

Proposed New or Revised Policy (Clean Version):

- Student Classification: Students in a combined degree program will remain undergraduates until either (a) they complete all undergraduate degree requirements and receive their undergraduate degree, or (b) they request the Graduate School change their status from undergraduate to graduate (the student must have completed a minimum of 124 or 128 total graduate and undergraduate credit hours, depending on their catalog year, to make this request). Once the student meets one of these two criteria, they will be classified as a graduate student. A student must be classified as a graduate student in at least their final semester before the graduate degree is awarded and cannot take all of their graduate credit hours with undergraduate status.
- Graduation: Students must have graduate student status by the first day of the semester in which they receive their graduate degree (e.g., they must have graduate student status by the first day of spring semester if they will be receiving their graduate degree in May). They may not receive both the undergraduate and graduate degrees on the same date (degrees are conferred four times per year (i.e., January, May, August, December)).

Proposed Revised Policy (Marked Up Version):

- Student Classification: Students in a combined degree program will remain undergraduates until either (a) they complete all undergraduate degree requirements and receive their undergraduate degree, or (b) they request the Graduate School change their status from undergraduate to graduate (the student must have completed a minimum of 124 or 128 total graduate and undergraduate credit hours, depending on their catalog year, to make this request). Once the student meets one of these two criteria, they will be classified as a graduate student. A student must be classified as a graduate student in at least their final semester before the graduate degree is awarded and cannot take all of their graduate credit hours with undergraduate status.~~apply for graduation or submit a request to the Graduate School to have their classification changed from undergraduate to graduate. Students must have completed a minimum of 124 or 128 hours (number of credit hours based on catalog year; undergraduate and graduate credit hours) to be classified as a graduate student.~~
- Graduation: Students must have graduate student status by the first day of~~may receive their bachelor’s degree prior to completing their master’s degree. Students must have graduate student status during the semester in which they receive their graduate degree (e.g., they must have graduate student status by the first day of spring semester if they will be receiving their graduate degree in May).~~apply for graduation to receive the graduate degree.~~They may not receive both the undergraduate and graduate degrees on the same date (degrees are conferred four times per year (i.e., January, May, August, December)).~~

Effective Date: August 22, 2022

Responsible Parties: Senior Associate Registrar, General Counsel, Graduate School

Implementation Procedures and Timeline:

The revised policy would not apply to (a) students who were officially admitted into a combined program prior to July 1, 2022, or (b) undergraduate students registered for graduate credit in Summer 2022 or prior. If this policy revision is approved, the Graduate School will work with other university offices to determine how to best implement and communicate this policy revision.

Related Policies and References:

- Miami University's existing policy on [Graduate Students | Registration](#)
 - Miami University's existing policy titled [Miami University's Tuition Promise Guarantee](#)
- b. SR 22-xx Proposed Revisions to Academic Program Review Process – Carolyn Haynes, Senior Associate ProvostSR 22-xx Transfer Credit Policy_rev
- i. The amendments add external members to better ensure equitable reviews and allow for additional expertise as well as eliminate some additional labor and internal politics. Clarifications were also added to the suggested schedule.
 - ii. The motion was received and seconded as amended. The resolution passed. (Yes 37; No 4; Abstain 2) Amended version attached.

SR22-xx

Proposal Model for Revised Academic Program Review

March 28, 2022

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that University Senate endorse the proposed Model for Revised Academic Program Review.

- c. SR 22-xx Auto-Adopt Policy Proposal - Jason Osborne, Provost and Chair of Senate
 - i. The motion was received and seconded. The resolution failed. (Yes 1; No 43; Abstain 2)
 - ii. Concerns from Senators and constituents reiterated concerns that policy was onerous and would have many negative impacts on the faculty.

New Business

6. New Business
 - a. Proposed Revisions to the Enabling Act of University Senate & Faculty Assembly– Dana Cox, Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs
 - i. The majority of the proposed edits were to update current practices and reflect hiring and policy changes that have occurred at the University.
 - ii. No concerns were voiced but they were not brought to a vote so that Senators and constituents had more time to review.

Adjournment

7. Meeting was adjourned.