

**Graduate Council Meeting**  
**Monday, March 25, 2024, 3:00 pm**  
**Winder Boardroom (300 Park Building)**

**Council Members Present:** Tabitha Benney, Laura Kessler, Kent Golic, Katherine Beals, Janet Lindsley, Donna Ziegenfuss, José Gutiérrez, Misty Smith, Patrick Panos, Aaron Kaplan, Brijes Mishra

**Ex Officio Members Present:** Darryl Butt, Helene Shugart, Karen Paisley, Katrina Green, Anthony Jones

**Excused members:** Glen Schmidt, Paula Meek

**Graduate School Staff Present:** Mary Anne Berzins, Paula Spencer

**Student Representative Present:** Andry Joseph

**Welcome:** Darryl Butt, Graduate School Dean, welcomed everyone

**Proposal:**

Unit Name Change – Department of Sociology to Department of Sociology and Criminology

Presenter: Wade Cole, Department of Sociology

Discussion took place about:

- Better reflection of curriculum, interests of enrolled students, and faculty expertise
- Potential to attract more students and faculty with more inclusive name
- Name change eliminates confusion about where the Criminology major is housed
- Popularity of existing programs in Criminology (60% of BA/BS students)
- Opportunities for graduates – law enforcement, law school
- Support for name change by Undergraduate Council

**Motion to approve:** Janet Lindsley

**Second:** Tabitha Benney

**Vote:** Yes – 10, No - 0

**Abstain:** 0

**Action:** Move proposal forward to the Academic Senate.

**7-Year Review:**

Department of Family and Consumer Studies

Presentation by Ad Hoc Committee Chair: José Gutiérrez

Discussion took place about:

- Praise for department's community engagement and interdisciplinary scholarship
- Positive connections between faculty and students, especially adjunct instructors
- Rigor of undergraduate learning outcomes assessment
- High student satisfaction
- Efforts to reverse undergraduate enrollment decline
- Potential resolution to debt related to closure of infant care center
- Need to better align graduate advising and curriculum with graduate student professional goals (industry vs. academia)

**Motion to ratify report:** Janet Lindsley

**Second:** Tabitha Benney

**Vote:** Yes – 11, No - 0

**Abstain:** 0

**7-Year Review:**

Master of Statistics Program

Presentation by Ad Hoc Committee Chair: Brijes Mishra

Discussion took place about:

- Dedicated faculty are highly invested in program
- Desire for a dedicated space
- Programs
- Need for unified learning outcomes
- More computer programming skills could be included in curriculum

**Motion to ratify report:** Patrick Panos

**Second:** Laura Kessler

**Vote:** Yes – 11, No - 0

**Abstain:** 0

**Discussion regarding revised review procedures:**

Draft “Application for Substitution of Programmatic Accreditation”

Comments and suggestions:

- Create a standard institutional form that generically encompasses Undergraduate Council reviews “Cyclical Program Review.”
- Give programs at least one year of advanced notice for upcoming review to allow time for preparation of application.
- Communicate more clearly that the cognizant Council has authority to accept or reject an application.
- Use policy language, consistent with USHE policy, to outline procedure.
- Consider putting a limitation on currency of accreditation review, i.e. “must be within the last X years.”
- Include language in application about standards regarding curriculum review.

**Motion to approve application:** Patrick Panos

**Second:** Tabitha Benney

**Vote:** Yes – 11, No - 0

**Abstain:** 0

**Other discussion items:**

- Retirement of Policies 6-204 to 6-223 – A process is underway to replace these out-of-date policies with one consistent policy. It will include taxonomy to distinguish between professional and research degrees.
- 3-year degrees – We are working with Admissions to develop a proposal to bring forward to Graduate Council regarding whether, under what conditions, and by what mechanisms we might consider three-year undergraduate degrees as acceptable for admission into graduate programs.

- Graduate student supervisory committees - Currently we are out of compliance with policy and are working to provide clarity and guidance for programs and departments.