

**Graduate Council Report**  
**Academic Year 2019-20**  
**Submitted by Dorothee Ostmeier, Graduate Council Chair**

**Curricular Review of Policies/Programs**

The Graduate Council met monthly for 8 months, September-November and January-May, during Academic Year 2019-20 and also met in subcommittees to determine the recipients of Graduate School fellowships and prizes.

Meetings covered the routine business of evaluating proposed new and changing specializations, certificates, tracks, policies, degrees, and programs; suggesting changes to those proposals; and voting on whether to approve them.

In Academic Year 2019-20, the Graduate Council reviewed and approved an Accelerated Master's Program (combined Bachelors/Master's degree), a new Bioengineering PhD Program within the Knight Campus, an Electrochemical Technology track in the Chemistry department, a new online emphasis within the existing Psychology MS program, and a new certificate in Ethnic Studies. The Council also approved graduate specializations in Educational Data Science, Violin/Viola Pedagogy, and Folklore and Public Culture, and endorsed the realignment of required courses within the Architecture program, revisions to Classics curriculum, and the modification of the D.Ed program in Educational Leadership.

Several program name changes were also passed such as Media Studies to Communication and Media Studies, and International Studies to Global Studies. The Graduate Council also discussed and approved the inactivation the DMA in Music Composition and the MA in Computer and Information Science.

In relation to policy related to graduate study, due to the stress caused by the unforeseen onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Graduate Council supported and approved a P/NP grading option for all graduate courses.

All these discussions are coordinated with representatives of individual departments, Deans, Academic Affairs, UOCC, and Academic Council.

**Issues and concerns that are pending and need further attention:**

- Supportive Collaboration between Knight Campus and Campus.
- Explore the possibility of adding a faculty member from the Knight Campus to Grad Council.
- Alternate Career Paths for Graduate Students
- More Time for Council's Mission to Advise Dean on Graduate Education
- Link Academic Training of Graduate Students to modeling of professionalism in advising

--Advisors might be encouraged to step down from advising positions as soon as their priorities shift away from research activity.

-Encourage advising as team effort that includes graduate advisor, individual advisor, hear faculty, grad school, college.

--Strengthening international collaboration.

--Review of US18/10-09 Regulation

### **Additional Initiatives/Proposals**

--Graduate School implemented writing support for students during the summer, set up a special pandemic website, and collaborated with Academic Affairs and TEP about ergonomic advice for students.

--The Head of Graduate Council represented the Council at Meetings of Academic Affairs.