**YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY**

**College of Graduate Studies**

**Wednesday, March 30, 2022**

**4:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

**TEAMS – Video and Recording Transcripts**

Present: Valerie O’Dell, Chair, Christopher Bellas, Ewelina Boczkowska, Lauren Cummins, Douglas Genna, J. Paul Louth, Tomi Ovaska, Virgil Solomon, Sal Sanders, Angie Urmson Jeffries, Linda Hulburt-Blosser

Excused: Patrick Bateman, Kendra Fowler, Jake Protivnak

Guest: Joseph W Carucci, Director, Dana School of Music

GSAC – Graduate Student Advisory Council Representative: Joseph Spurio.

Excused: Theresa Gorospe, Gabrielle E. Jones

Valerie O’Dell, Chair, called the meeting to order once a quorum had been met.

1. The February 23, 2022, meeting minutes were approved by evote.

(7 Approve, 0 Approve with edit, 0 Abstain)

1. The February Curriculum Items were approved by evote.

(7 Approve, 0 Approve with edit, 0 Abstain)

1. Committee Chair reports
	1. Admission and Appeals Committee Chair: J. Paul Louth

Nothing to report this month.

* 1. Graduate Curriculum Chair: Virgil Solomon- Items may be sent via evote

Virgil reported the February curriculum items were approved and they are working on new March items received. There was an increase in curriculum items due to courses that needed to be deleted. Virgil said he has appreciated Angie’s assistance with this task and the committee is now diligently working toward having all curriculum items approved for the next academic year.

* 1. Exceptions Chair: Sal Sanders

 Exceptions Committee Report to Graduate Council for March 2022

1. Received a request for an exception to permit an applicant to be admitted to the Ed.D. in Educational Leadership program without a master’s degree. This applicant has an earned Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. The Ed.D. requires completion of 60credit hours beyond the master’s degree. The program will view 60 hours beyond the DPT as fulfilling the degree requirements. This exception was approved unanimously. Dean Sanders also discussed this exception with the Chair of the Chancellor’s Council on Graduate Studies who felt this approach was reasonable.
2. Two requests to exceed the limit of transfer hours that would be accepted to fulfill requirements for the Ed.D. in Educational Leadership were considered. Both were unanimously approved to permit up to 24 credit hours of transfer credit to apply toward the Ed.D. degree.
	1. Grievance Chair: Christopher Bellas

Nothing to report this month.

* 1. GSAC: Theresa Gorospe, Gabrielle E. Jones, and Joseph Spurio

Joe Spurio reported for the GSAC, and he had nothing to report at this time.

1. Program Assessment – Sal Sanders
	1. Scorecards

Sal provided a brief update on their work with the Gray Associates program evaluation system. This will provide an overall plan and strategy for the future Gray has now compiled another year’s worth of data and it is being added to the scorecard which tracks marketing and economic analytics. Sal reminded everyone that each program is to be updated within the dashboards indicating the goals they are currently working on. Academic units can be done internally and easily updated by the department chairs or other designated persons. There is a review of the process that put programs into the framework that identifies categories such as grow, sustain adjust, or sunset.

* 1. Dashboard

This current program assessment information should be provided to you by the department chair. This should be a review of current academic goals and recommendations for Fall 2022 goals including program enhancements and new program developments. This is the opportunity to indicate progress on current goals and identify new goals.

The goal is to consider ways to make your academic program more successful and to provide high-quality educational programs here at Youngstown State University.

1. Dean Sanders’s comments

Sal thanked all the members for their hard work, and he appreciates all their efforts towards increasing enrollment in their programs. The program review is a very important part of recruitment, retention, and what the program contributes overall to the University's Mission.

Sal provided an update on the issue of graduate assistant funding. The College of Graduate Studies currently has been funding the Fringe Benefits portion of externally funded grants when only the stipend amount is covered. There has been an increase in the number of these research grants which has impacted our current budget dollars. Dean Sanders will post the current allocation list to the MS Teams folder.

There have been meetings with the graduate faculty and deans to get their input on this budget issue. While discussions are still in progress, Wim Steelant, Dean, College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, (STEM) has agreed to contribute additional funding dollars. Kelly Wilkinson, Dean, Williamson College of Business Administration, has agreed to give up three of its allocations. Dean Sanders is asking the Graduate Council members to provide their suggestions and comments via email to him. The Office of Research has also provided funding in the past. To continue funding these grants as we previously have, we need to cut back on approximately fifteen (15) graduate assistantships appointments.

Following some discussion on possible solutions to consider, the suggestion to reduce the amount of the funding provided to the student was not an acceptable solution to some members as funding is considered an incentive for recruiting in their programs.

We need to be competitive with what other colleges are offering and to continue to attract prospective students who are interested in our graduate programs here at Youngtown State University.

Dean Sanders also reported that we are putting a concentrated effort into getting increased enrollment with the international students since COVID-19 did not allow students to get their visas since the US Embassy and Consulates were closed. Using some creative strategies, the numbers have increased significantly in the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems.

We are also streamlining our admissions criteria by speeding up the approval process for enrollment and removing any barriers for the students. We have had substantial growth in the online programs such as the MBA, Nursing, and courses offered through the College of Education. If you are interested in moving your program online, please contact Sal Sanders for further information.

The meeting was adjourned at 4.35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Linda Hulburt Blosser

**Linda A. Hulburt Blosser, Academic Ops Specialist2**

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**Attachments: Graduate Assistantships Initial Allocations for 2022- 2023 IPO 021522**



**Exceptions Committee Report to Graduate Council for March 2022**

Committee Membership:

Dr. Sal Sanders, Chairperson

Dr. Virgil Solomon

Dr. Valerie O’Dell

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