

## REPORT TO FACULTY SENATE

FROM: Graduate Council

MEETING DATE: Jan 19, 2024

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The Graduate Council met on Jan 19, 2024 to review the following items:

1. Procedure on Consortium Degrees. This is a procedure to standardize the review of Consortium Degrees. A Consortium Degree is similar to a dual degree but involves more than one external partners and students may receive more than two degrees upon completing a consortium degree. The procedure closely aligns with the dual-degree procedure, and it is unanimously approved.
2. Strategies on balancing minimal class size policy and the need to offer small classes to doctoral students. It was made clear that the University only provides guidance on the minimal class sizes (5 for graduate classes), and it is at the discretion of the individual academic units to implement their own policies to best meet the local needs.
3. The Poll on the new meeting date and improvements on Graduate Council work.
  - a. A proposal to move GC meetings to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the week was included in the poll. The goal is to create adequate intervals between GC Meetings and FS Executive Meetings. Members agreed to move the GC meeting starting in Aug 2024.
  - b. Members suggested creating an Onboarding Session with New Members to help new GC members get familiar with GC business. For this, members reviewed [a draft Onboarding Information Sheet](#) that will be sent to all new members and updated regularly
  - c. During the review of the onboarding document, members identified an inconsistency between the GC Bylaws and the Faculty Bylaws on the composition of GC. GC is working with APPC to address the inconsistency. We noticed the GC Bylaws have not been updated/reviewed since 2009. We plan to review the Bylaws in Spring 2024.
  - d. Members suggested adding a 'Topics from the floor' section to GC meetings to discuss any trendy and forward-looking ideas to improve graduate education.

A total of 30 voting members took part in the meeting. GC's next meeting is on Feb 17, 2024.