

**ACU Graduate Council  
November 10, 2020  
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

Present: D. Snider, K. Witemeyer, D. Walls, J. Neill, D. Barnett, L. Merchant, J. Cardot, A. Huddleston, S. Jones, M. Scott, L. Lemley, T. Womble, T. Sensing, M. Long, C. Flanagan

Absent: None

Ex-officios: J. Wiser (M. Straughn, J. Shewmaker, G. Straughn, B. Crisp, K. Cukrowski – not in attendance)

Guests: D. Kennamer, J. Smith, C. Candler, E. Gumm

The meeting began at 12:03 p.m.

I. Approval of the minutes from 4.14.20

**Motion to approve the minutes by J. Cardot; seconded by D. Walls; all in favor. Motion passes.**

*Action Items:*

II. MMFT – Waive GRE Requirements for 2021-22

D. Snider – Last spring we voted to waive the GRE and GMAT for 2020-21. Do we know of restrictions moving forward? C. Flanagan – I think they are letting students have access to those exams now. J. Neill – I think the GRE can be taken at home. L. Merchant – We are looking at getting rid of the GRE requirement for admission to our program in the future, so that is why we are looking to waive it this year and see how it goes. D. Snider – Where are other programs moving for next year? T. Womble – We are planning to get rid of the GRE requirement for our students. C. Flanagan – Psychology has not required the GRE for several years. It didn't seem to be a very good predictor of graduate school success. L. Lemley – We require it for non-ACU undergrads or undergrads with less than a 3.5 GPA. We might lean toward waiving it, but I will need to follow up with our faculty to see what they are thinking. J. Bearden – For recruiting, we can make changes in the admission cycle if needed, but knowing one way or another as early as possible is necessary. The application opens in July, but we are already having students ask about the program and admission requirements. L. Lemley – I will follow up with my faculty to see if they want to waive another year or move forward with removing it. J. Bearden – We can send out a marketing email to students interested to

notify them about the changes. C. Flanagan – We have picked up some really strong students who would have been put off by having to take the GRE. It has worked to our advantage with recruiting. Especially with non-traditional students and those deciding to pursue graduate school late. J. Bearden – If you are struggling to recruit students, waiving the GRE is a good way to get more applicants.

**Motion to approve by S. Jones; seconded by D. Barnett; all in favor. Motion passes.**

III. OCCT 643 – Increase Credit Hours from 1 to 2

C. Candler – A year ago we put forward our proposal for the OTD, and now we are getting ready to put it in the catalog. These courses were initially masters' courses that will now be only doctoral. In the MSOT, students would take one hour in the fall and three hours in the spring. However, as we looked at it, we decided that evening the hours and workload would be better for the students, so we propose having 2 hours in the fall and 2 hours in the spring. The total program hours will not change.

IV. OCCT 735 – Decrease Credit Hours from 3 to 2

See above.

**Motion to approve items III & IV by L. Merchant; seconded by J. Neill; all in favor. Motion passes.**

V. OCCT 721 – New Course

C. Candler – These seminar courses are critical to the OTD program. The OTD student requires faculty mentoring to bring about independent thinking and fulfill the standards of our industry for research and projects. The earlier we can start this mentoring process, the better for our students. In the first seminar, we will follow the theme of leadership and select a project topic and area of specialization. Faculty will present lectures as well as mentoring. By the end of the course, students will be matched with a specific faculty mentor.

VI. OCCT 722 – New Course

C. Candler – This second seminar will allow students to engage in intellectual inquiry and examine literature in their area of specialization. They will begin the research process and narrow down their project.

## VII. OCCT 723 – New Course

C. Candler – This course will be conducted mostly online during the summer while students work on internships. Their faculty mentors will be on-call. By the end of this course, they should have identified the site where they will implement their project. These courses help students integrate their education and develop leadership and specialization.

Our cohorts will have a maximum of 15. The first year we will look for 8, then 10, then finally 15. We will keep both the MSOT and the OTD. They are both entry-level programs. Our MSOT students will not move to the OTD. They can do either-or but not both. I think it will be a while before they do away with the masters, but as more and more programs move toward the OTD, the masters will fade. However, much of our interest is still for the master's program.

**Motion to approve items V – VII by D. Barnett; seconded by M. Scott; all in favor. Motion passes.**

Meeting ended at 12:33 p.m.