

University of South Carolina Upstate
Faculty Standing Committee Year End Report

Year: 2015-16

Committee: Graduate Studies Committee

Members: Brett Barwick (MCS), Michelle Bertolini (JCBE), Amy Connolly (INFO), Kela Goodman (SOE), Mary Hodge (SON), Jennifer Parker (PSY)

Meetings: 9/10/2015, 10/06/2015, 11/10/2015, 1/26/2016, 3/01/2016, 3/29/2016, and 4/03/2016

Business: As it is a new committee formation, the committee set rotating term limits for members and selected Amy Connolly to chair. Kela Goodman volunteered to serve as secretary to take minutes.

Throughout the year, the committee outlined an agenda to improve graduate programs across campus for students and faculty. To build this agenda, the committee determined similarities and differences between graduate programs, policies and procedures and discussed strengths and weaknesses across programs. This agenda included a proposal to Senate as to the creation of selection and evaluation criteria for graduate faculty. The chair worked closely with Faculty Welfare to ensure this proposal served faculty needs. This proposal passed.

The committee reviewed and approved curriculum changes as follows:

General policies

- Course numbering

School of Education (SOE)

- Removed 500-level courses to comply with numbering policy and align with other graduate programs.
- Changes in literacy required in M.Ed., Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education mandated by Department of Education

Psychology (PSY)

- Renumber 600 level courses to 700 level, to satisfy State requirements.

Informatics (INFO)

- Creation of new elective course to match faculty expertise
- Streamline degree worksheets and clarify entrance requirements

Natural Sciences & Engineering (NSE)

- New master's degree in Biomedical Science

Amy Connolly was selected to serve as chair for 2016-17.