The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m.

Dr. Frierson welcomed everyone to this month’s meeting of the Graduate Council and gave a brief summary of the pending proposals to be presented to the Council.

I. ACTION ITEMS:

1. Minutes from the April 16, 2020, Graduate Council meeting were presented. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

CERTIFICATES:

2. Proposal from the College of Journalism and Communications to create a new graduate certificate in Science Communications (#14781). Some discussion took place explaining the variance from this graduate certificate and the graduate certificate in Health Communications through this same unit. Dr. Carla Fisher was present via Zoom for discussion. After providing a brief summary of the program, a motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously, with a proposed effective date of Fall 2020.
3. Proposal from the College of the Arts to create a new graduate certificate in Curatorial Studies (#14604). Dr. Jennifer Setlow was present via Zoom for discussion. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously, with a proposed effective date of Fall 2020.

MAJORS:

4. Proposal from the College of the Arts to modify the curriculum for the Master of Fine Arts degree with a major in Design and Visual Communications (#14811). Dr. Maria Rogal was present via Zoom for discussion. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously, with a proposed effective date of Fall 2020.

5. Proposal from the Department of Tourism, Hospitality and Event Management in the College of Health and Human Performance to rename the current M.S. degree with a major in Tourism and Recreation Management (TRM) to an M.S. with a major in Tourism and Hospitality Management (THM) (#14670). Dr. Svetlana Stepchenkova was present via Zoom for discussion. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously, with a proposed effective date of Spring 2021.

DEGREES:

6. Proposal from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences to create a new interdisciplinary graduate Ph.D. degree program with a major in Plant Breeding (#14426). Dr. Joel Brendemuhl, Dr. Patricio Munoz, Dr. Marcio Resende, and Ms. Eliana Kampf were present via Zoom for discussion. Questions were raised and addressed regarding the differences between this offering and the Doctor of Plant Medicine (D.P.M.) degree. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously, with a proposed effective date of Fall 2021.

7. Proposal from the College of Public Health and Health Professions to close the Ph.D. degree with a major in Health Services Research (#14636). Dr. Stephanie Hanson was present via Zoom for discussion on behalf of Dr. George Hack. A question was raised regarding students in the program. Dr. Hanson advised no students were admitted to the program after 2017, and no students remain in the program at this time. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

II. INFORMATION ITEMS:

8. Medical Pharmacology and Therapeutics Graduate Certificate curriculum modification (#14826). This item was administratively approved and forwarded to the Graduate Council members as an information item, as there were no changes to the amount of credit for the graduate certificate. An additional course was simply added as an elective option to the available curriculum.

9. Graduate Programs – Distance or Self-Funded
Dr. Marchman indicated two new Graduate Certificates have been approved for the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS). The Graduate Certificate in Weed Science and the
Graduate Certificate in Environmental Microbiology have been approved for distance delivery. They are both 100% online and self-supporting programs. They have been approved to begin in the fall of 2020.

10. New members of the Graduate Council

Dr. Frierson acknowledged the departing members of the Graduate Council and thanked them for their service to the Council over the past three years. Dr. Duncan explained the process for the selection of the new members and agreed to forward the list of new members to the members of the Council via email.

11. Other announcements

- Dr. Duncan indicated there might be a need for an additional meeting of the Graduate Council in June or potentially sometime over the summer. There are already a number of submissions in the queue for potential review by the Graduate Council. He indicated that the Graduate School would evaluate the urgency before asking the committee to meet outside of the 9-month faculty appointment window.

- Updates were provided on the changes to standardized testing indicating ETS plans to continue to offer at-home versions of the GRE and TOEFL tests in select territories until June 30, 2020. The online version of the GMAT will be available until June 15, 2020. The British Council has created an alternative measure for language proficiency, called the IELTS Indicator, as a limited-time option.

- Information was provided regarding an extension to the deadlines for students completing a thesis or dissertation with the Graduate School’s Editorial Office. Due to COVID-19, a one-time extension of the clear prior option for thesis and dissertation students has been established. For eligible thesis and dissertation students, the Summer 2020 “Clear Prior” Final Clearance Deadline has been extended by one month to Monday, June 8, 2020. The traditional summer deadlines and the deadline to clear prior to the fall semester have also been extended for the Editorial Office.

- An update was provided about the elective use of the S/U option for graduate courses during the spring semester of 2020.

- The university-wide academic dismissal policy in effect during the spring of 2020 was discussed. No student will be dismissed for reasons related to academic progress from the University of Florida in the spring 2020 semester. Any student who would have normally been dismissed from UF for reasons related to academic progress will be provided an additional probationary semester.

- Updates were provided about UF’s new chosen name policy. Students, faculty, and staff may wish to use a name other than their legal names as recorded on official university
documents. We plan to incorporate this new policy into Graduate School guidelines for students completing a thesis or dissertation.

The meeting adjourned at 1:37 p.m.