Graduate College

Graduate Faculty Meeting
4-22-21

Presented by:
Cindy Forehand
Dean of the Graduate College
University of Vermont Graduate College
Agenda

• Welcome
• Approval of the November 12, 2020 Minutes
• Dean’s Report – Cindy Forehand
  • Commencement
  • Postdoctoral associates/fellows
  • Pandemic response update
• Student and faculty resources – Becky Prigge
• Academic Reorganization - David Jenemann
• Admissions Report – Kimberly Hess
• Activities of the Graduate Executive Committee – Cindy Forehand
• New business
• Adjourn
Dean’s Report

• Commencement - Streamed live
  • 5:30-6:30 pm Thursday May 20, 2021 – Athletic Fields
  • Masking, distancing, and other health and safety protocols; all grads and staff/faculty supporting program must test for Covid 2 days before the ceremony
• In Person – in regalia, processional, walk across stage (alphabetical), pick up diploma cover, photo; no hooding
• Virtual – photo with name and program displayed on screen
• NameCoach – partner gathering RSVPs and reading names-FIRM deadline of April 28th to participate in person or virtual
• 2 ticketed, vaccinated guests allowed per grad
  • Faculty attendance only as one of these guests – not in regalia or processional
Dean’s Report

• Postdoctoral associates/fellows – now one class with equal benefits
  • Research grants support Associates’ benefits through fringe rate (now ~31.5%) included in budget
  • Fellows’ benefits paid by the college/school of their advisor
  • Key benefits added for fellows in this process
    • Pay their contribution to health insurance with pre-tax dollars
    • Dental insurance
    • Voluntary participation in the retirement savings plans (no UVM contribution)
    • Long-term and short-term disability coverage
    • Life insurance available
    • Tuition remission for full-time postdocs (not family)
    • Retiree Health Savings Plan (RHSP)—with UVM contribution
  • Pandemic response update
Dean’s Report

- Pandemic response update
  - [https://www.uvm.edu/ovpr/covid-19-guidelines-research](https://www.uvm.edu/ovpr/covid-19-guidelines-research)
- Summer required testing and exemptions currently being worked out
- Currently – any student coming to campus tests twice weekly unless fully vaccinated and then it is once weekly
Student and Faculty Support Resources

Presented by
Rebecca "Becky" Prigge, M.Ed.
International Student Services
General Student Support, Student/Faculty Liaison
Identifying and Supporting Students of Concern

How to identify a student of concern:

• Expressing thoughts of self-harm or harming others
• Missing classes/research hours
• Unresponsive to program outreach
• Change in personality (withdrawn, irritable, sad, excessively tired)
• Change in appearance
• Extreme/uncontrolled emotions in interactions
Resources for Supporting Students of Concern

• Emergency – 911, **First Call** (24/7), **Crisis Text Line** (Text “VT” to 741741)
• **UVM Police Services**
• **CARE form**
• **Bias Response/AAEO** – sexual & harassment, discrimination based on protected categories
• The Center for Health and Wellbeing:
  • **SHS** – primary care, mental health management, sexual health, transgender care
  • **CAPS** – short-term counseling, psychiatry, same-day urgent appointments, referrals off-campus, support groups
  • **Living Well** – Let’s Talk Drop-In Hour, yoga, meditation, sexual health
Resources for Supporting Students of Concern, continued

• **Ombudsperson** – general issues in graduate education

• Student Identity Groups – [Mosaic Center, Prism Center, Interfaith Center](#)

• Graduate College Student Services – student outreach, connection with on-campus and off-campus resources, liaison between student and program, advising on options for enrollment changes (LOA, Withdrawal, Medical Withdrawal, Incomplete)

Becky Prigge
[Rebecca.prigge@uvm.edu](mailto:Rebecca.prigge@uvm.edu)
(802) 656-1460
Resources for Faculty

• **Employee Assistance Program (EAP)** – 24/7
  
  • Family
  
  • Mental Health
  
  • Legal/Financial
  
  • Workplace
  
  • Health
Graduate College

University Reorganization – David Jenemann
Admissions & Enrollment Management Update
Spring 2021

Presented by
Kimberly L. Hess, M.S.
Director of Graduate Admissions & Enrollment Management
University of Vermont Graduate College
As compared to AY 19-20, for AY 20-21 this represents:

- A 6% Increase in Applications
- A No change in Admit Rate
- A 5% Increase in # Admitted
- A 4% point lower Yield Rate
- A 4% Decrease in New Enrollment

*2021-22 values are for admissions cycle in progress: applications are still arriving, not all programs have made admit decisions, nor all students made enrollment decisions. New enrollment is based on applicant responses. Typically 8% of positive responses do not go on to enroll in that term.
As compared to AY 19-20, for AY 20-21 this represents:
9% Increase in Applications                         3% point lower Admit Rate
1% Decrease in # Admitted                          8% point lower Yield Rate
30% Decrease in New Enrollment

*2021-22 values are for admissions cycle in progress: New enrollment is based on applicant responses & includes those scheduled to come after deferring in prior year. Last year 45% of positive int’l responses did not enroll in that term. In 2019 this figure was 37%. 
Summar/Fall Student Responses to Admission Comparison 2017-2021

All data as of April 15th of the corresponding year
Spring 4 Year Enrollment Comparison By College

Data retrieved from Catamount Data Center
Graduate Executive Committee Actions

Meetings

- 10 meetings subsequent to last Graduate Faculty meeting

Reviewed

- 27 new or significant change course proposals
- 80 minimal change, deactivation delete course proposals
- 13 graduate faculty applicants

Reviewed applications/nominations for student awards

- Rodney L. Parsons Anatomy and Neurobiology Award
- Thomas J. Votta Scholarship
- Roberto Fialho Award
- GTA of the Year Awards
- Thesis and Dissertation of the Year Awards
Graduate Executive Committee Actions

Approved

• Certificate of Graduate Study for Resiliency-Based Approaches to Families, Schools, and Communities
• Deactivation of MS in Athletic Training
• Name change for the M. Ed. in Educational Leadership to the M. Ed. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
• Certificate of Graduate Study in Education for Sustainability – provisional
• Micro-certificate of Graduate Study in Agroecology
• Deactivation of MS in Engineering Management
• AMP in Community Development and Applied Economics
Graduate Executive Committee Actions

Other

• Grade changes no longer require an explanatory note, but Incomplete grades still do

• Reorganization...

• Reappointment to the Graduate Faculty – down to 26 faculty who have not responded
Graduate Executive Committee Actions

Other

• FY 22 Stipends: Set goal to bring the overall average stipend level to the 50th percentile relative to the OSU schools database (30 R1 and 18 R2 public institutions)
  • At absolute value, our (FY20) stipend average was at the 69th percentile with disciplinary range from 50th to 79th percentile
  • With correction for high cost of living (housing!) the stipend average is only 45th percentile with disciplinary ranges from 32nd -54th percentile
  • Relatively small increases required to move the percentile rank but moving target since others change as well
  • Exploring setting minimum FY 23 doctoral stipend at Living Wage for Chittenden county

• New Business

• Adjourn