

Eastern Washington University  
**Graduate Affairs Council**  
Minutes of November 13, 2024

**Members Present:** D. Ayers, K. Hope, D. Vulcan for D. DiLuzio, J. Lawlar, B. Davenport, L. Reeves, D. Semb, C. McNeely

**University Officials:** S. Eubanks, S. Shaffer

1. The meeting was called to order by D. Ayers at 3:08 p.m.

**2. Approval of minutes of November 13, 2024. *Hearing no objections, the minutes are approved.***

**3. Reports. a. Chairs Report. D. Ayers reported:** Rules was short because of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Open Forum held prior. They talked about the Applied Learning Workgroup with S. Ligon.

**b. Administrative Report. S. Eubanks reported: i. Graduate Appeals Form Revision.** For graduate appeals they will change how the form works since it isn't currently working. They are pulling all the data out and will be putting it into a fillable PDF. There will be a bump in appeals in the meantime. It will be the same process however they will get better information in the email that will come to the faculty member. D. Ayers stated if they can shorten the form, it would help immensely. **ii. Graduate substantive changes cheat sheet.** S. Eubanks stated they made a cheat sheet so they can standardize what goes to CPAC. He has been working with the catalog people, so they understand what is substantive and what isn't. He wants to make sure they don't get bogged down if he isn't available.

**c. ASEWU Graduate Affairs Report. None.**

**5. Unfinished Business. a. GAC Response to PRC Report on PRD. i. Visit from S. Shaffer, Assc Prof of Literacy & Director/Chair of School of Education.** D. Ayers created a DRAFT report and will discuss with the GAC today. S. Shaffer stated the provost's recommendations didn't agree with the SRA recommendations, so he just kind of went completely off script. The programs he included for discontinuance, Literacy and CTE, don't make sense because there are other programs that have fewer enrollments. They are glad that the PRC recommended additional time. There is some confusion about the whole thing and how those programs were selected as well as what the expectations are on how to streamline the programs because they are online MEd Programs. They were shocked that 11 programs were targeted from the 22 for the entire university so it feels very intentional. D. Ayers stated the Academic Task Force and the PRC both disagree with the provost with regard to the Literacy and CTE courses. The data that was used was from 2021-22. S. Shaffer stated for the CTE it began in fall, 2021 but the Literacy Program stated in 2018. 2021 was the first year they started the MEd and CTE Admin fall, 2022. These are two new programs that have been sought after and we are one of the only programs that's offering the CTE Admin Cert in the area. Central Washington University does have an online Library Media program but it's not an accelerated 6-week program. If the student takes a traditional online program, it will take longer so our program is better and is serving students across the state. Before the Director of Ed Leadership and CTE left she was working to create place-based programs because there are some administrators that were more interested in not having online program for their students. The Education Department is planning to develop a

Eastern Washington University  
**Graduate Affairs Council**  
Minutes of November 13, 2024

hybrid place-based program rather than keeping it in the online format it currently is. They are planning to revise the program to be more specific for the needs of the community members that are seeking those endorsements although they aren't sure what revisions the provost is looking for. The enrollment in MEd in Library Media has continued to grow and those students are looking to earn a Library Media Certificate. B. Davenport asked if they have a sense in terms of need across the state. His understanding is there is a push from the legislature in making the CTE more robust so there would be more demand. S. Shaffer stated if they go online to: <https://www.pesb.wa.gov/current-educators/educator-shortage/> it shows the shortage for teachers and CTE is one of the number one shortage areas in the state. That is another reason for us offering this endorsement to fill a need within the Education community in the state. The CTE Admin is more for people working at high schools or skill centers or places where they are more focused on the development of those CTE skills. Both the MEd and CTE lead to an endorsement. The CTE endorsement itself is a high need field and we have an obligation to try to help fill the need in those high need fields. S. Eubanks stated the MEd in Library Media was new in fall, 2021 and that kind of violates the rule of the SRA process because they were new. D. Ayers stated he asked about that but the response he received is that the provost can call for discontinuance anytime, so it doesn't have to be part of the SRA process. S. Shaffer stated it feels contrary to cut the CTE which leads to a CTE endorsement because cutting it means that there's fewer teachers getting certified and that's not filling the need of the state. That makes a good case for their implementation plan that requests they look at the program again in 2026 so they have time to implement the changes and then they would have accurate data to review at that time. S. Eubanks stated if the enrollments are poor after 3 years, then they can discontinue the programs, but it is too early right now. D. Semb stated most Ed accelerated programs are taught part time overload whereas other departments of Business are taught in load. If you get over 30 students, you can ask for a academic code and get paid more. J. Lawlar stated they have lost a lot of faculty and they won't be getting a tenured track person because there has been a freeze. Ultimately, we'll lose programs because we won't be able to support them. D. Semb stated last week the PRC is in place to do program review, everyone goes through the process, and it is for our accreditation. But that lead to the conversation that we need to get our programs under the 150-program mark because we have too many degrees. It is not sustainable for a university the size of Eastern. He stated the PRC only had one year of data to review and he believes the three Graduate programs fell through the cracks. **D. Semb moved to accept the recommendations to allow the programs to be maintained and to allow them time to implement the changes already proposed. J. Lawlar seconded. Motion carried.**

**b. CPAC Training.** *K. Walker was unable to attend the meeting so the training will be held at the next meeting.*

**c. Probation and Dismissal (303-22).** S. Eubanks stated he looked through some really old catalogs and the Probation and Dismissal policy is almost the same as it was in 1983. What's been happening is there was a caveat, Item K where the program can decide to not dismiss the student, but what was happening was students getting non-passing grades continued in the program. He discussed this with the provost's office over a year ago because they had graduated someone with less than a 3.0 GPA and who had not earned passing grades in 7 terms. The current process isn't working so he would like to have something in place that is equitable and fair. Basically, if a student has a GPA less than 3.0 and they are already on probation, they will

Eastern Washington University  
**Graduate Affairs Council**  
Minutes of November 13, 2024

be dismissed except that for those in cohort programs. It is an issue with accelerated programs so that will be treated differently. If a student isn't passing, there is usually something going on in their lives and they want them to get over whatever is happening so they can come back stronger. They can add a sentence to the policy that this doesn't apply to cohort programs. They want to make sure there are some consequences. B. Davenport asked if that is something that can left up to the cohort programs. If the program wants to let them back in, can they do that? S. Eubanks stated it is rare for cohort programs but maybe building in something that says they could reach out to the Graduate Programs Office so they can be aware of what the students are doing. He stated the lockstep cohorts are a small group that includes, Psychology Counseling, Physical Therapy, and Occupational Therapy. B. Davenport stated maybe rather than using the term cohort program they can put in something like, "unless dismissal will delay progress to degree for more than one term." If they are dismissed and they can't come back because the course isn't being offered, then that does delay them from returning and progressing towards degree. D. Semb stated with a semester program if they fail one course in a program and can't take the second course because they have to sit out for one term, they are basically restarting their program. It comes down to quarter programs that are cohort and lockstep. They can't write policy that is one size fits all. B. Davenport stated if they do that then they will have students that are already halfway through your coursework when you find out which is an issue. K. Hope stated perhaps rather than using cohort language they could say that if a student doesn't do well in one class or quarter and it leaves them being academically dismissed then they must reapply, and they only have one application cycle per year. If a student is dismissed in quarter 2, they have missed the application cycle so it would be natural consequences. D. Semb stated maybe they can come up with something they think they can use rather than wait for an overall statement. AP programs are throwing a wrench into the process. J. Lawlar stated they are really talking about the 6-week programs so online accelerated students must sit out for one session. B. Davenport stated a pause is a smart thing. Don't want to see students bounced from classes if they are already in the class. J. Lawlar stated they kept running into students who were continually asking for extension after extension because of cultural issues (DEI). K. Hope stated whatever they write it doesn't go into policy right away. It must go through the processes including Senate, President, and BOT. S. Eubanks stated there are about 13 students per term that get academically dismissed. For online accelerated students they can reapply for the following session. He wants to create a policy where the student must sit out a term. K. Hope stated does this really need to be in the policy. S. Eubanks stated for AP it does but not the others. B. Davenport stated there is only one day between the end of session 1 and the start of session 2. S. Eubanks stated they wouldn't do anything until after the second session is done. He would call the department to see if they are doing well rather than drop them. He will rewrite the policy language to be discussed and voted on at the next meeting.

**6. New Business. None.**

**7. Good of the Order.** a. L. Reeves stated we should all remember all the veterans who have served or are still serving our country.

**8. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, December 11, 2024.