



Graduate Council  
Minutes of Special Meeting Held Friday, December 20, 2019  
11:00 a.m.

The Graduate Council conducted a special conference call meeting on Friday, December 20, 2019 to discuss an Unfinished Business agenda item. Ms. Julia Odom, Director of Graduate Studies, presided.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by the Director of Graduate Studies.

**Roll Call:** Polling of members participating in the special meeting was conducted and a quorum was present.

**Present:** Dr. Lacey Blessitt, Dr. Rebecca Fairchild, Dr. Linda Godley, Dr. LaToya Hart, Dr. John Igwebuike, Dr. Keith McGee, Dr. Victor Njiti, Ms. Julia Odom, Dr. Babu Patlolla, Dr. Blanche Sanders, Dr. Debra Spring, Dr. Donna Williams, and Dr. Ping Zhang.

**Absent:** Dr. Ivan Banks, Dr. Jeremiah Billa, Dr. Dickson Idusuyi, Dr. Renardo Murray, Dr. Cynthia Scurria and Dr. Dylinda Younger.

**Approval of the Agenda:** It was moved and properly second that the Agenda be approved as printed.

Motion by: Dr. Victor Njiti

Seconded by: Dr. Donna Williams

**Report of the Director of Graduate Studies:** Ms. Odom shared with the Council the expectations of the approval process for new programs and the charge of the Council to approve all graduate programs. In the February 21, 2018 meeting, a presentation was made of the Doctor of Nursing Program but an oversight to officially approve the program occurred. Therefore, the purpose of today's meeting is to correct this oversight in hearing a presentation and request from the School of Nursing for corrective action.

**Unfinished Business**

1. School of Nursing Doctor of Nursing Practice Program – Dr. Debra Spring, Dean of the School of Nursing explained the needs assessment that was conducted which led to this program offering based on interest. The DNP Program was approved by the School of Nursing Council. The information behind the impetus for the needs assessment was based on information obtained from the national association that all nurse practitioners will have to be DNP level by 2025 in order to practice. Alcorn is the only school without a DNP program. Students graduating from the program need to be credentialed as they move forward with the approaching DNP requirements. Information was shared regarding the DNP program at the February 21, 2018 meeting but an omission of the approval of this program was not recorded in the minutes. At the conclusion of her presentation, Dr. Spring asked the Council for retroactive approval of the Doctor of Nursing Program. The request was put before the Council in a motion to retroactively approve the Doctor of Nursing Program presented in the February 21, 2018 Graduate Council Meeting. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Motion by: Dr. Babu Patlolla

Seconded by: Dr. Victor Njiti

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Recorded by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Julia Odom