

Please note – This summary is based on the information known at the time of the meeting. Some things may change as we learn new and/or more information.

The Graduate College has had some staff retirements. As a result, there may be some delays in communications/services as we reassign some of the work. The staff who retired are:

Betty Kinkade
Pamela Gordon

Phase 1 Questions

- Online Study for International Students
 - We have heard verbally from Legal Affairs that this is possible for returning students who are currently outside the US to study in a fully online mode. We do not have full details, however, for returning students stuck outside the US, we are hopeful that we will be able to support their continued studies.
- Honoring all Graduate Appointments
 - Returning Students not in Athens or the USA **can** work if they have current employment paperwork.
 - New/Returning students **in the US** but not in Athens without current employment paperwork can utilize the new HR remote paperwork process to complete that. **For instructions to access this information, students should refer to their graduate appointment letter.**
 - We are looking at how we might set up a scholarship process to allow students outside the US and unable to work to receive a tuition scholarship.
- 3 Ways for Graduate Students to access campus during Phase 1
 - 1) **Academic program requirements.** Students in those programs will receive an email from the Graduate College notifying them that they are approved to be on campus for course-related activity during Phase 1. (~280 students)
 - 2) **Research and Creative Activity.** Students can be approved for access to the Athens campus if necessitated by their participation in research and creative activity that utilizes on-site facilities. Approval is obtained via the Research/Creative Activity Restart process. Students who have already been approved for campus access via this process are approved through Fall Semester, including Phase 1.
 - 3) **Assistantships unrelated to Research and Creative Activity.** For duties such as those with a Teaching Assistant or Graduate Assistant (including Graduate Recruiting Scholarship recipients) which require access to facilities on-campus, will be authorized for access by your department/school and college via a process being finalized now.
- 4 Types of Phase 1 Graduate Student Return Categories
 1. Academic Program Approval - The Graduate College notifies
 2. Research Project Approvals - From approved Research Restart Process - Lab/PI initiated
 3. TA/GA Approval - From Department/College Approvals - Dept/Prog initiated

Graduate Chairs Meeting Summary

August 6, 2020

4. Capstone Approval - From Research Restart Process - Advisor/Student initiated
- Returning to Campus
 - **Approvals are independent**
 - Students cleared because of courses or programs on the Phase 1 list are not automatically approved to return to labs, offices, or other spaces.
 - All other graduate students will need to wait until September 28, 2020 to return to campus.

SPEAK Test process

- We will send out Alternative Process forms to graduate chairs today or tomorrow.
- Two levels of certification are required, and the ADR must approve.
- For students who are deficient, but "close":
 - AGC (ELIP) 5220 will be offered in the fall.
 - You can request a student be provisionally approved with a concurrent AGC 5220 course enrollment.

Questions/Announcements

- Communication is confusing for many including international students, especially incoming international students from abroad. To help with this confusion, International Students and Faculty Services will be communicating with these students as well.
- All new international students have a hold on their accounts. The hold is removed after they complete parts of orientation.
- Can new international students begin their teaching assignments while out of the country? No. They must be able to complete an in-person I-9 completion process.
- Can international graduate students who are abroad take online courses? Yes, but we do not have this in writing. The catch is we cannot scholarship the student and the full tuition is usually prohibitive for the student.
- If an international student has an I-9 expiration and they are starting new program, the student cannot start work until their renewed paperwork is complete.
- Students who need to obtain their I-20 need to show a year commit. Can we span two fiscal years? Departments will need to look at the budget to determine if this is possible.
- We are honoring all graduate appointments for the fall. Honoring that applies to those students who can come to Athens, correct? Yes, if the current laws support this, then the student can work remotely.