

UNL Graduate Council Minutes
January 17, 2019
206 Seaton Hall
2:30 p.m.

Attendance: Jennifer Clarke, Christina Falci, Geoffrey Friesen, Rhonda Fuelberth, Laurie Lee, Yusong Li, Shawn Ratcliff, Clint Rowe, Kara Viesca; Dean Tim Carr (presiding). Absent: Julia Reilly.

Approval of Minutes from November 15, 2018

Motion was made to approve the minutes as written. Motion passed.

Termination appeal

Dean Carr began the discussion by stating the appeals process. The Council reviewed the written appeal submitted by a student from the School of Biological Sciences. After thorough discussion, a motion was made to deny appeal. Motion passed unanimously.

Proposed specialization in Extension and Education (Animal Science)

It is the practice of the Animal Science graduate faculty to require MS and PhD students to select a specialization for admission to their graduate program. The department currently does not have a specialization for students who are pursuing careers in Extension and community education. The proposal also “recommends” a minor, but the department’s intent is to require a minor in STEM or ALEC. Motion was made to approve the proposal with the amendment to change “recommended” minor to “required” minor. Motion passed unanimously.

Proposed Specialization in Creative Writing (English)

Proposed Specialization in Composition and Rhetoric (English)

Proposed Specialization in Literary and Cultural Studies (English)

After initial discussion of the first proposal, a motion was made to consider all three proposals as a group. Motion passed. The three areas represented by the proposed specializations have long been major focus areas of the English department. The proposed specializations will formally recognize these focus areas and will facilitate their marketing and recruiting efforts. Motion was made to approve all three specializations as written. Motion passed.

Faculty pursuing graduate certificate or degree

Dean Carr reviewed the policy and expectations of faculty pursuing graduate certificates or degrees. As is stated in the governance policy, “The graduate faculty status of a person who is a member of the Graduate Faculty must be suspended when the person receives permission to pursue an advanced degree in the Graduate College of the University of Nebraska. However, with the permission of the appropriate campus Dean for Graduate Studies and the appropriate Graduate Committee, such persons shall be eligible to continue to teach graduate courses, supervise graduate students at the Masters degree level, and serve on graduate supervisory and examining committees.” A motion was made to approve both requests for Michelle Kang (degree) and Toni Anaya (certificate). Motion passed.

Discussion on Graduate Lecturer

Dean Carr presented a proposal to reaffirm the 1982 policy of approving Graduate Lecturer appointment to “up to 4 years” with the option to renew. All current requirements for appointment will remain. This practice is consistent with UNO and UNK. An issue raised was that the Graduate Lecturer appointment should continue to apply only to the courses requested on the nomination form. Another concern was raised of how to amend the appointment if the approved Graduate Lecturer was to teach different courses. It was suggested that if a change of course(s) was requested, the initial approval could be amended by a memo from the Graduate Committee Chair to the Dean of Graduate Education. A motion was made to approve the concept of extending the term of Graduate Lecturer to up to 4 years. Motion passed. The next step is for Dean Carr to create a new nomination form and send to the Council by email for review. A vote of the Council will be needed for acceptance of the new nomination form.

Proposed name change to PhD in Educational Psychology

The proposal was received just prior to the Graduate Council meeting, so a friendly amendment to the agenda was made to include it at the current meeting. The department is requesting that PhD degree in “Psychological Studies in Education” be changed to “Educational Psychology” to be consistent with their masters degree name and with student expectations. A motion was made to approve the name change. Motion passed.

Discussion on academic probation and termination

Dean Carr asked the Council to consider additional language in the guidelines that would include an initial face-to-face meeting with the student before initiating probation or termination. Discussion will continue at next Council meeting.

Discussion on certificate program termination

Guidelines should be established for terminating graduate certificate programs in a manner similar to the termination of degree programs. Dean Carr suggested that one possibility is to modify current guidelines regarding degree programs to include certificate programs. Discussion will continue at next Council meeting.

Graduate Student Assembly Report

Amendments to bylaws have been introduced to ensure GSA is represented at other governance events. Discussions have begun on GA stipends with the Dean for Graduate Education and EVC Plowman.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Eva Bachman