

UNL Graduate Council Minutes
February 21, 2019
206 Seaton Hall
2:30 p.m.

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

Approval of Minutes from January 17, 2019

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

Old Business

- Graduate Lecturer appointment: Dr. Carr reminded the Council that at its last meeting it had reaffirmed the 1982 policy of approving Graduate Lecturer appointment to “up to 4 years” with the option to renew. A revised “Request for Graduate Lecturer Appointment” form was presented to the Council for consideration. After several suggestions for minor edits, a motion was made to adopt the form. Motion passed.
- Discussion on certificate program termination: It was determined that termination of a certificate program will follow the same policy and procedure as for termination of degree programs.
- Discussion on academic probation and termination: On the advice of General Counsel, modifications were discussed to include an opportunity for the student to provide immediate feedback when probation or termination is a likely possibility. Current procedure does not provide an adequate opportunity for students to voice their concerns before the decision is made to recommend termination. A face-to-face meeting prior to recommendation for termination was suggested; however, what about students who are not located in Lincoln? And what happens if the student fails to engage? It was suggested that the department should offer the student a “reasonable opportunity” to discuss the situation. Another concern was making sure a clear timeline (with dates) is built into the protocol. Dean Carr also reminded the Council that termination is a recommendation from the Graduate Committee overseeing the student’s program to the Dean of Graduate Education. The Dean then sends the student official notification of program termination. Proposed changes to the policy and procedure will be presented at the next Graduate Council meeting.

Consent agenda - course approval

Motion made to approve the following courses: ANTH 862, CSCE 975, FDST 813, FREN 883, SPAN 888, TEAC 813T, TMFD 820. Motion passed.

Other courses moved to main agenda for discussion:

- AGEN 836 – After discussion, motion made to approve. Motion passed.
- CYAF 819, 820, 830 – Dean Carr explained these courses are part of the Great Plains-IDEA program, taught by faculty at other institutions. The Council felt these courses are not as rigorous as they should be. Should GC request a review of program? Dean Carr

will invite a guest (Rich Bischoff?) to next meeting to explain the Great Plains-IDEA program. Tabled.

- CYAF 867 – The course is also part of GP-IDEA, but taught by UNL instructor. The Council raised concern about depth of critical science (critical theory) discussion in syllabus. The course needs a schedule of topics to be taught. Title needs to be more indicative or descriptive of “theory” instead of “science.” Tabled.
- EMGT 808, 811, 819, 820 – In view of multiple courses being taught on campus with similar subject matter, what is the justification for offering them? Why not cross-list existing courses? Or simply accept similar courses currently being taught in other departments? Tabled.
- FDST 866 – After discussion, motion made to approve. Motion passed.
- FREN 885 and FREN 886 – The course syllabi indicate the same instructor. The Council raised concerns about the wording in the attendance policy. Dean Carr will explore current UNL attendance policy and make recommendation. Both courses tabled.
- HRTM 880 – Clear on what additional work is required for graduate students, but not clear on what the academic expectations and grading system will be for graduate students. Tabled.
- LAW 577G – Needs syllabus with clear description on what makes this a law course.

Side discussion: It was recommended that we remove statement in catalog that “professional” masters programs are not overseen by the Graduate College. We want to promote that all post-baccalaureate courses are part of graduate education.

If we are going to separate professional degrees by the names of the degree, we need to be consistent. We need to amend how we designate the difference in masters degrees; rather than having Options I, II and III, perhaps separate by “research,” “professional,” etc.). Dean Carr is exploring options.

Proposal for new degree – Master of Civil Engineering

Discussion: Civil Engineering has an MS, but the new proposal focuses on offering a practice-based degree. A question is whether the current MS degree could fill this need. Shannon Bartelt-Hunt (guest) shared that Civil Engineering surveyed the Big Ten and found a large number of professional masters in Civil Engineering.

Questions were raised about the credit hours needed. The department would like to offer a 30 credit hour, non-thesis, practice-based degree. But the current Option III requires 36 hours. Is it best to proceed with the MCE proposal or request a modified Option III with 30 credit hours? The department would really like to call it an MS, so the latter approach seems best. The Graduate Council offered advice and they will take it back to the department for further discussion. Proposal is tabled.

Proposal for specialization in Innovative Learning Technologies

Department of Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education has proposed that two existing specializations (Instructional Technology and Internet-based Education) be merged into one called Innovative Learning Technologies. The new specialization would be offered in the EdD,

PhD and MA degree programs. Courses are already offered at both levels of degree. Because of the lack of quorum at this point in the meeting, Dean Carr will send email ballot.

Reschedule March meeting

The March Graduate Council meeting will be moved March 28.

Graduate Student Assembly Report

No report.

Announcements

On the Graduate Studies website, the description for supervisory committee responsibilities has been modified to include "Chair or Co-chair."

Respectfully submitted,
Eva Bachman, Ph.D.