

UNL Graduate Council Minutes  
October 7, 2021  
2:30 p.m.  
Via Zoom

Present: Jennifer Clarke, Andrew Donesky, Geoff Friesen, Adam Houston, Laurie Lee, Xu Li, Eric Rodene, Kara Viesca, Brenda Wristen. Not able to attend: Laura Munoz. Dean Debra Hope conducted the meeting.

Approval of Minutes from September 2, 2021

Motion was made to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

Graduate Certificate: Strategic Innovation and Entrepreneurship – revised proposal

The program addressed the concerns raised at the last meeting. No further concerns were identified. Council members noted the proposal was clear and could serve as a model for other proposals.

A motion was made to approve the proposal. Motion passed.

Graduate Certificate in Urban Design

The Council noted that this is an on-campus offering. There are some wordprocessing errors that need to be cleaned up.

Motion was made to approve with minor updates with Dean approval of revised version. Motion passed.

General Discussion

There was an overall discussion of graduate certificates. Graduate certificate credits can be applied up to a masters degree but masters credits may not necessarily apply to a graduate certificate. The Council expressed that it is helpful to consider how certificates fit together across the university. The proliferation of certificates could mean a lack of a cohesive Graduate Program over time. The University and CCPE review programs/major offerings to determine if a program is still viable, if not, it is cancelled.

Graduate Student Assembly Report

There was a discussion of communication issues, including within the GSA and with Office of Graduate Studies. Dr. Bachman will set up monthly meetings with herself, Dean Hope, Eric Rodene and Andrew Donesky.

Ongoing concerns about the student health insurance, especially the cost, were discussed.

The GSA is organizing discussion around concerns in some departments that graduate stipends are low.

Announcements/Previous Business

Dean Hope reported on her discussion with Amy Goodburn and Jenn Nelson about campus access and COVID-19 testing for graduate students who come to campus infrequently. Entry testing has been discontinued so graduate students need only to upload their vaccination card to the Safer

Community App to access campus buildings. Graduate students who do not upload a vaccination card will need to follow the testing protocol. Dean Hope will monitor the situation if re-entry testing is re-implemented next semester. There was also discussion that UNL does not accept testing from other entities and the Student Health Center may not have access to vaccine and testing records.

Dean Hope reported on discussion with Provost Gold and the other NU Graduate Deans about potential updates with Graduate Faculty Status and barriers to taking courses across campuses. When specific proposals are available, Dean Hope will bring them to Graduate Council.

Concerns about unevenness of GTA and GRA stipends was discussed. Graduate students are involved in the core mission of university and Graduate Council expressed interest in weighing in on concerns about the stipends and terms of the offers.

The Council asked to return to the discuss of English language requirements started in the spring.

There was a brief discussion of how we are welcoming international students to campus for the first time. It seems they have varying experiences depending on the department. GSA and ISSO can assist with this discussion.

Motion to adjourn. Motion approved

Meeting adjourned: 3:57 p.m

Respectfully Submitted,

Eva Bachman, Ph.D.