

UNL Graduate Council Minutes
March 4, 2021
Via Zoom
2:30 p.m.

Attending: Jennifer Clarke, Geoff Friesen, Rhonda Fuelberth, Adam Houston, Laurie Lee, Yusong Li, Laura Muñoz, Eric Rodene, Luz Sotelo, Kara Viesca; Dean Tim Carr, presiding.

Approval of Minutes from February 4, 2021

Motion was made to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

Old Business

- a. Time to complete a master's degree (revisit from December 3, 2020 meeting)

Dean Carr reiterated the original plan, which was to take the proposal approved at the December meeting to campus leadership and then to the graduate faculty for a comment period. The leadership recommended that the Graduate Council, as representatives of the graduate faculty, should take action on the proposal. Leadership also recommended the proposed time limit be 5 years, but allow those programs that need extra time to set a long time if needed. There appears to be only 2 or 3 degree programs that might need 6 years.

Following discussion, Council members would like to talk with their constituents for input and bring it back to the April meeting. Motion was made to table until the April meeting to allow discussion with graduate programs and the GSA executive committee. Motion passed.

- b. Proposed CIP code change in Agricultural Economics (revision)

Discussion focused on whether the concerns from the previous review has been adequately addressed. Motion was made to approve the proposal. Motion passed.

- c. Proposed CIP code change in Economics (revision)

The Economics department coordinated with AgEcon in addressing the Council's concerns, mainly that they state the benefit of the CIP code change by increasing the flexibility for international students when obtaining visas. Motion was made to approve the proposal. Motion passed.

Proposed modification of master's degree options

Current master's degree options I, II and III would be replaced with Options A (thesis) and Option B (non-thesis). Students could add a minor under both Option A and B. Both options would have a minimum of 30 credit hours, although programs can establish credit hour requires greater than 30, such as the MBA program which is set at 48.

Discussion followed regarding the ability of programs to amend their requirements to the new lower requires to 30 credit hours. Academic programs would be able to enact a change without Council approval.

The description for Option B contains the sentence, “Students who have earned the master’s degree under Option B and later elect to pursue a doctoral degree must give evidence of ability to conduct independent research.” This statement has historically existed in the graduate catalog non-thesis options. The Council felt it was no longer relevant and should be removed. Also, a typo was discovered and corrected in the section describing Option A.

Motion was made to approve with the modifications. Motion passed.

Proposed certificate name change to Financial Counseling

Department requests changing name from “Financial and Housing Counseling” to “Financial Counseling.” No concerns were raised. Motion was made to approve. Motion passed.

Proposed specialization name change to Child Development/Early Childhood Education

This would be a specialization in the PhD-Human Sciences major. Currently there is a general specialization called “Child, Youth and Family Studies” that covers the entire department. The department is working to provide clarity and focus to the program. The proposed specialization will complement the existing specialization in Global Family Health & Wellbeing. Motion was made to approve. Motion passed.

Proposed new certificate in Sales Excellence

Discussion focused on the courses for the certificate, noting that all but one course is unique to this certificate; however, that one course cannot be double counted for other certificates. It was noted there is an undergraduate certificate for the same topic. Motion was made to approve. Motion passed.

Proposed new certificate in Urban Design

Certificate would be administered by Community & Regional Planning program (College of Architecture). Two issues need to be addressed: First, the table of courses needs to include all master’s degree courses. Second, CRPL 864 has not yet been approved. The certificate will need to wait until course approval. Motion was made to table, pending revision and approval of CRPL 864. Motion passed.

Proposed new specialization (MA) in Community College Administration

The 9 credit hours needed for specialization in Community College Administration includes has a course in Higher Education Administration, which is also being proposed as a new specialization. There were concerns about the courses for both the Community College Administration and Higher Education Administration overlapping/duplicating. It was also noted that this specialization overlaps with the existing Community College Leadership certificate, although it is allowable. Motion was made to table pending explanation and revision. Motion passed.

Proposed new specialization (MA) in Higher Education Administration

This specialization has five courses related to community college administration and overlap with the Community College Administration specialization. The distinction between the two specializations is unclear. Also unclear is why the department would offer two different

specialization if a student could choose exactly the same courses. Motion was made to table pending explanation and revision. Motion passed.

Proposed modification to Option III in Mechanized Systems Management

Due to the implementation of the proposal to change master's degree options, this request is no longer needed. Dean Carr will notified the program.

Demonstration of course review in OneDrive

Graduate Council members agreed that if the two reviewers have designated it "ready for Graduate Council," that it will be considered approved. Any course with comments and/or needed revision will be conveyed to the program. If response is still unclear, further revision may be requested. The reviewers will always have to ability to bring a course proposal to the full Council discussion. Reviews should be completed frequently (at least weekly) to keep up with the workload.

Courses approved in March:

FDST 895	SLPA 901	SLPA 911
HRHA 440/840	SLPA 903	SLPA 913
JOUR 820	SLPA 905	SLPA 915
NRES 485/885	SLPA 907	SPAN 955
NUTR 976	SLPA 909	SPED 848

Graduate Student Assembly Report

Some bylaw changes are being proposed. The GSA is investigating options for offsetting the rising cost of health insurance.

Announcements

None.

Respectfully submitted,
Eva Bachman, Ph.D.
Meeting adjourned 5:30 p.m.