

UNL Graduate Council Minutes
May 5, 2022
Location: Zoom
2:30 p.m.

Attending: Andrew Donesky (late arrival), Geoffrey Friesen, Adam Houston, Venn Kemkur, Laurie Lee, Xu Li, Laura Munoz, Kara Viesca, and Brenda Wristen. Dean Debra Hope, presiding.

Approval of Minutes from April 7, 2022

Motion was made to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

Outcome of the vote from Graduate Council

Dean Hope asked the Office of Graduate Studies administrative coordinator, Lisa Cordonier, to report on the results from the vote on new members of the Graduate Council for Professional Development and Humanities beginning in August 2022. Cordonier reported the results.

- Dr. Elizabeth Niehaus as the new graduate council member for Professional Development.
- Dr. Maria Marron as the new graduate council member for Humanities

Current outgoing graduate council members, Kara Viesca and Laurie Lee gave their goodbyes and well wishes to the Council.

Proposed Masters of Science in Accounting

Aaron Crabtree, associate dean for the College of Business and James Downes, associate professor for the School of Accountancy were in attendance to answer questions from the graduate council members.

The following were requested for more information by the Council members -

- Include a listing of comparison MPA, MBA, BA such as a table of difference and overlap for programs.
- Enhance the discussion of the learning outcomes
- Clarification on eligibility for CPA exam
- Obtain outside letters of support, especially from alumni.
- Add information on financial needs/requirements
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A motion was made to table the proposal for further revisions by the department and they would like to see it again once the revisions are completed. Motion passed.

Proposed Specialization in Animal Health and Welfare and Precision Management

The specialization was discussed by graduate council members who had several concerns. They requested a revised proposal that clarified the courses that were needed, addition of the ancillary materials (letter of support from departments they are including for courses for the specialization), and justify the need for 899/999 credits as they are not typically included for a specialization.

A motion was made to table the proposal. The motion passed.

Modification to Forensic Anthropology Certificate

The proposed modification will allow for flexibility in courses that students can use to complete the certificate. Requiring a set of three required core courses then the student can choose three courses from a set of eight elective courses. There was a request for several points of clarification including on campus/distance learning, clarify the table layout, to show current then modification for course listing, and clarify the onboarding process. Dean Hope noted currently there are 6 required courses with no options on the website. https://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/academic_s/programs/FORAGCER

Motion was made to approve the modification with the Dean to handle additional minor changes. The motion passed.

Modification to Geographic Information Science Certificate

Several issues were identified to be addressed in a revision including:

- Clarify a set of required courses and electives to end up with 15 hours given the variable number of hours for courses.
- Clarify the prerequisites and the undefined remedial course for those with no GIS background.
- Need to update the budget.

There was also a general discussion about faculty load issues and resources to support the faculty.

Motion to approve pending budget, course set, and prerequisite clarification handled by the Dean. Motion passed.

CIP code for the PhD program in Complex Biosystems (Added to Agenda)

Council Member Jennifer Clarke was on hand to assist with answers to questions raised by the Council. The primary concerns were to further develop the rationale, evolution of the program, and advantages for international students.

Motion for approval pending changes on the above to be handled by the Dean. Motion passed with Jennifer Clarke abstaining.

Update on proposed changes to Graduate Handbook

The Graduate Handbook changes are being worked through, rolling through the systems based on feedback the Graduate Council shared in their April 2022 decision.

Expiring Graduate Faculty Associates will need to be either approved for full graduate faculty status or an extension requested. Each department was notified of their expiring graduate faculty associates. Graduate programs are empowered to decide who serves on committees and receives graduate faculty status for non-tenure line faculty. OGS will work with Graduate Chairs to understand their options and responsibilities.

There was general discussion about how research is defined differently across disciplines and the importance of keeping faculty informed as this process proceeds. A concern was raised about compensation but no compensation changes are discussed in this process.

Discussions have begun on how to designate professional programs on this campus. It will be a modification of a graduate program using the usual processes. Departments interested in this can contact Dean Hope for further instructions. Several areas have already contacted Dean Hope about this option.

Discussion of Course Proposals

None at this time.

Graduate Student Assembly Report

No report at this time.

Proposal for a June Meeting

It was decided after discussion that Council Members had other obligations for the proposed June Meeting of the Graduate Council. All pending proposal items will wait till the September 2022 date.

Meeting adjourned: 4:36 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Cordonier, Administrative Coordinator