

UNL Graduate Council Minutes  
September 1, 2022  
Via Zoom  
2:30 p.m.

Attending: Andrew Donesky, Geoff Friesen, Adam Houston, Venn Jemkur, Xu Li, Maria Marron, Laura Munoz, Elizabeth Niehaus, and Brenda Wristen. Absent: Jennifer Clarke. Dean Hope presided. EVC Ankerson joined for discussion on Graduate Handbook.

Minutes - May 22, 2022

Motion was made to approve the minutes from May 22, 2022, Graduate Council meeting as presented. Motion passed with two abstentions. (Approved at end of meeting due to visitors.)

Old Business

**Revision of University of Nebraska Graduate College Handbook**

Dean Hope brought forward the current proposal for revision of the system-wide Graduate College Handbook. The Graduate Council voted down the last proposal in Spring, 2022. The current version follows the summer of negotiations with Provost Gold. EVC Ankerson attended to share her perspective and answer questions about implications for UNL policies. EVC Ankerson departed prior to the final discussion and vote.

EVC Ankerson thanked the Graduate Council members for their service, leadership and wisdom in this process and others. As the document was reviewed after last spring's discussions, many of the points raised by the Graduate Council were considered in negotiations and some were approved, including renewal of Graduate Faculty Associates.

The Graduate Council wished to have it noted that the timeline for review and vote by UNL faculty was inadequate given that the proposed document was presented just prior to summer when many faculty on 9-month appointments are not required to be on campus.

Graduate Council noted the importance of having programs consider apportionment when hiring new Professors of Practice. If there is an expectation they will need full graduate faculty status, then they will need time to build the needed research record. Graduate Council also requested that future discussion include how Professors of Practice with Graduate Faculty Associate status role in voting is considered. This can happen at the campus level initially.

Motion was made for approval of the Graduate College Handbook as it was presented. Motion passed. The full graduate faculty will be allowed to vote on this document this semester before it is enacted.

**Accelerated Masters Program Policies**

Dean Hope brought forward a proposal to make several policies around the accelerated masters more flexible to encourage greater participation and to define some aspects to facilitate administration at the Office of Registrar. It was noted that these changes will still protect students' eligibility for financial aid. These changes are:

- a. Discussion included when undergraduate students should be allowed to “enter” an accelerated masters. Current policy is within their “last year of their senior year” they may take graduate courses (up to 12 credits) and designate they be held for graduate use. There is no way in the system to determine anything except senior standing so that is the benchmark that will be set and verified.
- b. Drop GPA requirement from 3.5 to 3.0
- c. Allow programs to recruit students early, with entry to the program in the sophomore year, depending on the what the program prefers.
- d. Programs will need to designate specific undergraduate courses that can be replaced with the accelerated graduate courses to be used in the degree audit.
- e. Greater flexibility in admissions requirements will be available since programs will know these students and may not need an extensive application as needed for students applying directly to the masters program.

Dean Hope noted that if the Graduate Council approves these changes, OGS will work with each program on updates and move these towards implementation as soon as possible. If there are major changes in the programs, these may come back to Graduate Council for approval. Programs will not have to make the suggested changes with the exception of those needed for administration at Office of Registrar.

Motion was made to approve the new accelerated masters guidelines. Motion passed.

#### New Business

##### **Graduate Faculty admitted to Graduate Programs**

The Council reviewed requests from two current graduate faculty members, Surin Kim and Geng Bai, to pursue graduate degrees.

- a. A motion was made to approve Surin Kim to pursue a doctoral graduate degree in Business, with a specialty in Management. Motion passed.
- b. A motion was made to approve Geng Bai to pursue a graduate degree in Computer Science. Motion passed.

##### **Administration of new Professional Programs (see additional document)**

Dean Hope provided a document for discussion only on how administrative procedures being considered for programs to be designated as “professional programs” at UNL. (College of Business has some areas that wish to do this and could be a test case). The desire is to make the transition as smooth as possible with minimal administrative barriers. Issues that need to be resolved are which programs will be labelled as such, certificates that may be included, credits that can be counted (per policy limiting professional credits that may apply toward a graduate degree) especially if graduate degrees are being completed with certificates/professional programs.

#### Graduate Student Assembly Report

Andrew Donesky, President of GSA, reported that issues to be focused on this year by GSA included:

- a. Family Housing. The current apartments are not accepting new applications. A task force has been created by EVC Ankerson to consider family housing.

- b. Student health insurance: OGS, GSA, and Kevin Harford in Central Administration are working on a survey of students who are using the student insurance across all campuses.
- c. A welcome back gathering is next Thursday (Sept. 8)
- d. The discount rate offered to faculty is now available to those on GRA/GRA appointments.

#### Announcements

Dr. Eva Bachman, Director, Graduate Student Support & Associate Registrar, requested that council members remind their programs that it is important for students, instructors, and advisors to review the enrollment of the students to ensure accuracy of level (graduate versus undergraduate), number of credit hours, and correct course for the current semester. Changes cannot be made after 60 days from the close of the semester.

Meeting adjourned 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Cordonier

Administrative Coordinator