

UNL Graduate Council Minutes
March 2, 2023
Zoom
2:30 pm

Attending: Jennifer Clark, Andrew Donesky, Geoff Friesen, Adam Houston, Venn Jemkur, Laura Munoz, Elizabeth Niehaus, and Brenda Wristen. Dean Hope Presiding. Professors Bruce Dvorak, Paul Springer, and Carrie Hanson-Bradley as guests.

1. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting from February 2, 2023 Meeting
Motion to approve, Second, Unanimous.

2. Accelerated Masters BS MS ENVE Environmental Engineering Proposal (new) - (Bruce Dvorak; Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering, attending)

Dr. Dvorak spoke about the Bachelors in Environmental Engineering, advising proposal for the Accelerated Masters BS to MS would make it easier for the students to move on to the master's program, being able to dual count 12 credit hours. There is a significant pay bump for employees with their master's, but less so for the Ph.D. Therefore, getting students started on their MS will make it easier for them to finish the remaining credits while employed if needed. Council member asked how many student would elect for the program. The department hopes to have 30 students. In response to a question about advising, Dr. Dvorak stated that the first two years are by professional advisors, the last two years would be faculty advisors. There was discussion about the faculty advising workload and Dr. Dvorak indicated it would be adjusted if the number of students is large. Given that most students are self-supported or supported by their employer, it is expected most will do Option B (Non-Thesis) as the department sees the demand as for the terminal masters. Following general discussion about the proposal and undergraduate and graduate requirements including ACE, Dr. Dr. Dvorak was excused. Motion was made to approve, seconded. Vote to approve was unanimous.

3. Certificate in Early Childhood and Family Policy (new)

This certificate would be part of Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance with the administrative unit being Child, Youth, And Family in the College of Education and Human Sciences. It will be offered through distance only. Students will be able to enroll on any of these campuses for this certificate. Learning outcomes are clearly defined and the certificate does not duplicate other programs. One question was raised about inclusion of a faculty CV who was not teaching any of the courses. There was extensive discussion of GPIDEA and the structure, especially regarding allocation of tuition across schools not teaching a course. Dean Hope agreed to gather additional information about the consortium for the education of the Council, but that does not impact approval of this proposal as the university has committed to the consortium and they have faith in it. Website was referenced for the Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (<https://www.gpidea.org/> <https://studentaccounts.unl.edu/graduate-tuition>). It was noted that this is a good certificate and a nice sharing of resources. Motion to approve pending clarification on how many students they expect, and clarifying the data on Table 2 as it exists with GPIDEA and Revenue sharing agreements. Motion was seconded with unanimous approval pending Dean Hope addressing the noted concerns with the program.

4. Accelerated Masters in TLTE Social Studies (new)

This is an accelerated masters for BS in Secondary Education, Social Sciences Education to MA in Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education. The Council noted this is a strong proposal and the market

demand for teachers is high in the State of Nebraska. There was discussion about acceptance to the program with 18 months or less remaining in the BS degree. Motion was made to approve and seconded. The vote for approval was unanimous.

5. Discussion of Course Proposals

- a. Continued discussion of Marriage and Family Proposal for 0 credit course (Paul Springer; Professor Child, Youth & Family Studies & Associate Dean, College of Education & Human Sciences, and Carrie Hanson-Bradley, Assistant Professor of Practice, Child, Youth & Family Studies attending)

MFT 97, a new course proposal, was brought to the Council by the reviewers for discussion at the February, 2023 meeting and discussion was tabled until March 2023. Dr. Carrie Hanson-Bradley from the Marriage and Family master's program spoke to the proposal. Dr. Paul Springer was also available to answer questions. Dr. Hanson-Bradley described that the MFT is a clinical accredited program and this course is designed to prepare students for practicum in their clinic. It is responsive to student requests to know more about the administrative and business side of clinical practice as well. This zero credit course frees up second year students who see clients who would have to handle these same duties while seeing clients if first year students did not complete them. There was extended discussion of the activities for the course and whether a course is the appropriate place for those to occur. In the discussion of a zero credit vs. 1 credit course, Drs. Spring and Hanson-Bradley indicated that this helps reduce financial burden on students who are already paying for a 54 credit master's program. A Council member asked why the cost for this could not be somehow added into the clinic's budget. In response it was shared that the clinic has very few funds as it offers a sliding scale service with the clients paying \$10.00 on average per session, meeting an important need for mental health services in Nebraska. There was extended discussion about other ways to complete the needed training, perhaps through inclusion in another class. This is not possible because accrediting bodies have certain credit hour requirements. In closing Dr. Hanson-Bradley thanked the Council members for the consideration and protecting student time and faculty time. Drs. Springer and Hanson-Bradley were excused.

Further discussion of options and concerns regarding the need for this zero course continued. Due to the educational value and the accreditation requirements some Council members still had concerns and expressed that there should be course credit for the work. There was discussion of similar issues and comparisons with other zero credit hour courses on campus. Some members with concerns indicated they had not been present at previous discussions of other courses and may have similar concerns about student burden. A motion was made to approval and seconded. The motion passed with 5 in favor and 2 opposing. MFT 97 was approved.

6. Graduate Student Assembly Report

Andrew Donesky, President of Graduate Student Assembly reported on the following:

- GSA plans to have a discussion with Josh Overocker, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, about UPFF Fees for distance education students.
- Update on family housing and the letter that recently went out to students living in the housing, as reported in the *Daily Nebraskan*. Donesky appreciated that students had been given an opportunity to help with the tone of the letter. There is some concern for students who may not be able to pay the rent increases, but other supports from the university are positive such as help with moving.
- GSA is aware of a reported reduction in GSA lines in Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts. There was discussion of the timing of offer letters and recruiting of the most qualified applicants. Donesky reported that GSA is hoping there is a multi-year plan to raise stipends.

- New GSA officers will be installed on April 4th

7. Announcements

Dean Hope discussed an end of the year gathering for the Graduate Council.

Meeting adjourned: 4:35pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Cordonier