

## UNL Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

November 2, 2023

Location: Zoom

2:30 p.m.

Attending: Chris Bilder, Jennifer Clarke, Venn Jemkur, Tom Kubick, Xu Li, Maria Marron, Katie Mowat, and Brenda Wristen. Dean Hope presiding. Angela Bryan, Eva Bachman, and Lisa Cordonier from Graduate Studies in attendance.

1. Approval of Minutes from October 5, 2023 meeting. Move to approve, seconded, unanimously approved.
2. Dual Degree MS-Ph.D. for Computer Science – This proposal sets up MS and PhD as dual degree, so applicants only have to do one application and are automatically in both degree programs. There are not changes to either program or any budget implications. One goal is to increase the number of MS degrees without burdening students to enroll separately. It applies to all specializations. Motion to approve, seconded. Unanimously approved.
3. Change in Policy to Align with Executive Graduate Council for Junior Enrollment in Graduate Courses in Accelerated Master's Programs

General guidelines for UNL accelerated master's programs were previously approved by UNL Graduate Council. Those guidelines state that sophomore standing and GPA of 3.0 are needed for admission to an approved accelerated master's program. Senior standing was previously required to start taking graduate courses, per Graduate College policy. The following change to junior standing was recently approved by the NU Executive Graduate Council. We are seeking approval to implement that policy at UNL as well. The key change is highlighted in red.

**Seniors Approval for Graduate Courses** Seniors at an accredited institution who have obtained in advance the approval of the appropriate campus Dean for Graduate Studies may receive up to 12 hours of credit for graduate courses taken at any campus of the University of Nebraska System in addition to the courses necessary to complete their undergraduate work, provided that such credits are earned within the 12 months prior to receipt of the baccalaureate. **Students in an established accelerated master's program at any University of Nebraska campus may begin their graduate enrollment as a junior.** *SOURCE: Executive Graduate Council Minutes 09-26-74; Modified by the Executive Graduate Council on 10-18-2023*

Motion to approve, unanimously approved.

4. Change in Policy on Baccalaureate Degree Admission Requirements.

Angela Bryan, Director of Admission presented a proposal to return UNL to a pre-2019 policy that would give more flexibility in acceptable baccalaureate degrees, especially international degrees. Current policy requires 16 years of study and a 4-year degree. Other BTAA universities and some credentialing agencies are more flexible and allow some three-year degrees. The proposed change would allow OGS flexibility in evaluating international degrees and then passing the decision to program faculty to decide whether preparation is sufficient for their program. Some program shave

asked for this flexibility. We are not anticipating a large number of new applicants, perhaps 20-40 per year with three-year degrees based on those who are withdrawing or not finishing applications currently. Requiring a certain number of years of education does not recognize that students may progress through more rapidly. We accept all US degrees as 4 year even if a student is able to finish it in a shorter time frame. Motion to approve, seconded, unanimously approved.

5. Any needed curriculum discussions -None

6. Graduate Student Assembly Report – President Katie Mowat reported out on current activity of the GSA including interesting an ombuds person, meeting with the new Associate Vice Chancellor Student Affairs, Dee Dee Anderson, and faculty and graduate student orientation.

7. Announcements – Dean Hope report OGS and GSA partnered on a successful Halloween Trick or Treat event. Eva BACHman reminded the Council that she can assist students with academic leave and alternative options for students if a student has life events or struggles completing their program. There was a brief discussion of assistantship workload for graduate students and the policy regarding other work.

Meeting adjourned: 3:38pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Cordonier

Administrative Coordinator

Graduate Studies