

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Graduate Council Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2024
Location: Zoom
2:30 p.m.

Attending: Jennifer Clarke, Maria Marron, Elizabeth Niehaus, Christopher Bilder, Brenda Wristen, Venn Jemkur, Katie Mowat, Dean Hope presiding, Eva Bachman, and Ginger Tracy
Absent: Laura Munoz, Tom Kubick, Xu Li.

1. Approval of Minutes from February 1, 2024, meeting - Motion was made to approve minutes, unanimously.
2. Dual Degree MA-Ph.D. Political Science – This is a proposal to offer a MA-Ph.D. dual degree program, in which students simultaneously enrolled in the MA and PhD programs with a major in Political Science. Motion was made to approve and seconded. Vote was unanimous.
3. Posthumous Degree Abhijeet Prasad – Mr. Prasad passed away suddenly prior to finishing the degree. The program made a request to posthumously award degree. OGS has worked with the program and all criteria have been met for a posthumous degree. Motion was made to approve and seconded. Vote was unanimous.
4. Deletion of Specialization – CYFS reports that their international partners are no longer engaged so they propose to delete the specialization in International Family Studies for the CYFS-MS. No students are currently admitted or enrolled. Motion was made to approve and seconded for deletion of specialization. Vote was unanimous.
5. Deletion of Specialization – Construction Engineering – College of Engineering – MEM The MEM program reports that this specialization is no longer needed as there are other options for students to pursue. No current students are admitted or enrolled. Motion was made to approve and seconded for deletion of specialization. Vote was unanimous.
6. Discussion of distinction between 800 vs 900 courses – Dr. Clarke proposed a discussion regarding distinction in courses offered at the 800 and 900 level. According to the Board of Regents policy from 1971, 800 is master’s level, 900 is doctoral level. The Office of the Registrar policy states that 800 and 900 are “Graduate Level”. Some units are running out of 800 numbers which could be solved by adding letters as some units have done. Differentiation can aid advisors and students in choosing appropriate courses. However, the courses are used differently across colleges and departments. Dr. Clarke suggested the Council provide guidance on how to use the course numbers. After discussion, the motion was tabled to allow Dr. Clarke to bring the discussion to the individual colleges.

7. Previously tabled discussion of clarification of policy for syllabi for graduate courses – No action needed as the link to Faculty Senate policy on the OGS web page provides sufficient documentation.
8. Previously tabled discussion of policy for comprehensive exam re-takes - After discussion, this motion was tabled for further discussion with departments.
9. No discussion needed on curriculum.
10. The final meeting of the year was scheduled to include a luncheon. Time and date to be determined.
11. Graduate Student Assembly Report – Graduate Student Appreciation Week is coming up in April. GSA is organizing a brunch on Sunday, April 7th. GSA presidents across the NU system are organizing a showcase and networking event on April 5th.
12. Announcements – Dean Hope announced that there are two working groups of various campus partners addressing current student issues. One is addressing orientation and onboarding and the other focuses on student support needs. OGS is partnering with GSA on Graduate Student Appreciation Week. There was a discussion of upcoming changes to OGS offerings on career services given budget cuts.

Meeting adjourned: 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Cordonier