

UNL Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2024, 2:30 pm

Location: Zoom

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

Absent: Laura Muñoz

1. Approval of Minutes from meeting on March 7, 2024. Motion to approve minutes, seconded, and unanimously approved.
2. Proposal for new specialization in Ecological Engineering in Agricultural and Biological Systems Engineering (MS), Mechanized Systems Management (MS), Biological Engineering (PhD).

Review and discussion followed a brief introduction of the new specialization proposal by Dean Hope. Discussion focused on the following concerns that need better clarification before Graduate Council will vote for approval:

- Ensure clear involvement and support from the College of Engineering (COE), especially Civil Engineering and confirm support from units teach the courses in the proposed specialization.
- Edit the document to remove unneeded material such as undergraduate prerequisites and clarify whether a course mentioned in the text, but the proposed list of courses should be included.

Motion to table proposal vote for clarification from program. Motion seconded and unanimously approved.

3. Any needed curriculum discussions. None.
4. Graduate Student Assembly Report:
 - GSA elections were held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024. The new GSA President is Venn Jemkur. The new Executive Vice President is Allie (or Alejandra). The new executive committee members will be sworn in on May 7th.
 - Graduate & Professional Students week begins tomorrow (Friday, April 5). Over 150 students from all four NU campuses have RSVP'd for Friday's event, NU Graduate and Professional Student Showcase and Social at Kiewit Hall. On Sunday, a Graduate and Professional Student Family brunch will be hosted in Cather Dining Center and co-sponsored with Office of Graduate Studies.
5. Announcements:
 - Dean Hope asked Council members to encourage students to participate in Graduate & Professional Student appreciation week events. She also expressed appreciation to Katie Mowat and Venn Jemkur's work organizing the events.
 - Two faculty will soon be rotating off Graduate Council – Jennifer Clarke (Agricultural and Biological Sciences) and Laura Muñoz (Social Sciences). Elections are coming soon. Nominations for new members are still open. Nominate faculty from Social Sciences to ensure they have adequate representation.
 - The process for the RFP for a graduate admission system is still ongoing.
 - Jennifer Clarke provided an update on the research that is being done to follow up on the discussion of policies differentiating 800 and 900 level courses from the last meeting of the Graduate Council. Prof. Clarke searched online archives and contacted library staff about

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Board of Regents policy since they archive the BOR notes. The library found reference to a policy in documents from 1971 but not the actual policy itself. Prof. Clarke contacted the Provost's Office, but they have no awareness of the policy. Prof. Clarke also contacted the registrar's office and Kimberly Kraska is helping in the search. Next step is to contact individual colleges to discover their current practices. Prof. Clarke will report back to the Council at a future meeting.

- The last meeting will be the luncheon on May 14th.

Meeting adjourned: 3:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Carmichael