

UNL Graduate Council Meeting
September 20, 2018

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Graduate Council met at 2:30 p.m. in 206 Seaton Hall. Present were: Professors Jennifer Clarke, Geoffrey Friesen, Rhonda Fuelberth, Laurie Lee, Yusong Li, Clint Rowe, Kara Viesca; Graduate Student Assembly representatives: Vice-President Shawn Ratcliff, President Julia Reilly; Absent: Professor Christina Falci. Dean Tim Carr presided.

Dean Carr welcomed Geoffrey Friesen as the new member of the Council, representing the area of Business. Dr. Friesen is completing the term of David Smith who retired.

Approval of the April 12, 2018 Minutes

The minutes were approved as written. A question was asked about archiving the consent agenda in Box. We will do that so to keep a record.

Old Business

1. Course approvals:

- a. CYAF 870: The Council raised concern that a 900 level course is a prerequisite for an 800 level course. The department has responded noting that 900 numbers were no longer relevant. The council recommended that the 900 prerequisite be changed to an 800 course number. Eva will follow up to track that change. Motion to approve with that caveat passed.
- b. ECEN 438/838 – The Council raised the concern about overlap between course (CSCE 230 and ECEN 438). The answer from the proposer failed to clarify how it would not overlap. Discussion followed about the lack of difference in the description/syllabus between the courses. It appears that the only difference was location of instruction. The Council requested the proposer be requested to justify how they are different, provide more thorough explanation of use of text, and a letter of support from CSCE. Dean Carr will send it via email when the information is received.

2. Proposed curriculum change for graduate certificate in Sensory Disabilities (SECD). Dean Carr had a conversation with Professor Mackenzie Saviano and Graduate Chair Christine Marvin. The change is proposed to accommodate student from UNK who may have already taken an equivalent to 960. The Council suggested that they add an advising notation for the option of the other courses (860/861/863, already in the footnote) and include the need for departmental approval. Motion passed with request to the department to add notation included.

Proposed certificate in Human Resource Management

Dr. Jake Messersmith, College of Business, was present to answer questions. After discussion the first sentence in point 4 contained a typo (mentioned specialization rather than certificate), so it will be removed. Questions were raised about the sequence of the courses which are only offered once in the two year sequence. Dr. Messersmith stated the courses are offered once a year but that might be amended if demand is high. One of the courses is offered both online/on

campus so that is why the hybrid option was chosen. The rest of the courses are offered online. Motion to approve with deletion of sentence one in point 4, passed. We will need a CIP code.

Proposed certificate in Forensic Anthropology

Sophia Perdikaris, Chair of Anthropology, was present to discuss the certificate and answer questions. Dean Carr asked Dr. Perdikaris to describe the opportunities involved with this certificate. Dr. Perdikaris discussed how students will have a unique opportunity to have internships and employment opportunities through Offutt AFB. They are seeking Nebraska graduates. Anthropology has been approved to hire a Forensic Anthropologist this fall. The department hopes this certificate, along with the Forensic Anthropologist line (funded for 3 months by Offutt AFB), will allow summer internships to be developed soon.

Questions followed about a limit on number of students in program. It was stated that rotations can be done for internships (summer, partial in academic semester, in lab or in field). The certificate, rather than a full degree, is proposed at this time so that students from other departments can be apply. For Offutt AFB, there are different positions that would require different levels of education.

The Council requested that a different course be used instead of ANTH 898 (Advanced Current Topics) for the required courses. It was suggested that they use their seminar course number with a title "Seminar in Forensic Anthropology" for this purpose. This course will be used to allow experts from Offutt AFB to teach in the program. The special topics would therefore be available as a recommended course. If the possibility is that students could take the special topics course twice in different topics, the courses would need different subtopics. The department could also advocate for it to have flexibility since it is a recommended, rather than required, course. The credits for all these courses would be 3. The hybrid was selected because they will be off campus for internship. A concern was about some faculty teaching. It was stated that the issue is being addressed. The Council asked that it be revised and submitted once the new course has been approved. Dean Carr will send email to Council member for vote.

Proposed certificate in Museum Studies

Dr. Perdikaris discussed the certificate need. There are many career opportunities within state, the US and international in museums and private firms with internships. The support letter discussed about an internship that has been offered. Want to bring in digital component. Museum staff will be involved from start to finish.

Questions followed about broaden the certificate offering to students outside the Anthropology department. Dr. Perdikaris stated there is some room for inviting others, but the hope is that this will grow more opportunities. Anthropology would take the lead. The partnership with museum will allow instruction and programs to move this forward. The hope is that this may grow into full MA degree program which will allow expansion. Six courses are listed (18 hours) and all are required. The plan is to make the special topics course a permanent offering, the course number would be changed. Students can only take one of the 898A-E. Motion to approve the certificate, contingent on ANTH 898 being made a permanent course, passed.

Definition of graduate faculty “associate”

Dean Carr clarified the Graduate College policies regarding graduate faculty and “associates” of the graduate faculty:

- Those hired into a tenure line are automatically granted graduate faculty membership (policy handbook, page 8).
- Non-tenure line faculty—professors of practice, research professors, adjunct professors, and lecturers—must apply for membership to the graduate faculty. The application process requires nomination by the home department and two-thirds majority vote of the departmental graduate faculty (policy handbook, page 8).
- Non-tenure line faculty who are not members of the graduate faculty can be granted temporary, limited responsibilities in graduate education (policy handbook, page 52). We call this temporary status graduate faculty “associate” at UNL. This title is not used on the other campuses. Associate status permits the individual to teach graduate courses, direct masters theses, serve on or chair master’s degree examining committees, and serve on doctoral supervisory committees. The temporary status is limited to “a specific term not to exceed a period of four years from the start of the staff member’s faculty appointment.” The intent is to allow non-tenure track faculty to immediately participate in graduate education, but the expectation is that they will be nominated for full membership if their continued participation in graduate education is desired and they meet the requirements. The nomination form and process is maintained by the Provost’s office.
- Departments that have hired professors of practice for the sole purpose of teaching graduate courses have made it very difficult for those individuals to achieve membership to the graduate faculty, which requires continued scholarly and/or creative activity beyond teaching.
- To circumvent these difficulties, previous graduate deans began the practice of extending the associate status beyond the four year limit. Because this practice is in violation of central policy, Provost Susan Fritz has asked that we follow policy and limit the associate status to four years.
- Dean Carr has been having discussions with deans, department chairs/heads, and graduate committee chairs to assess the impact and encourage the nomination of professors of practice for membership to the graduate faculty. Scholarly and creative activity beyond teaching should be reflective of the discipline and should demonstrate commitment to graduate education.
- Dean Carr has also discussed with Dr. Fritz alternatives for professors of practice who are employed by departments for teaching in professional programs.
- Dr. Viesca discussed the need to be able to have “control” of course content quality, which is not always found when hiring adjuncts. We have the chance to communicate what is expected at the graduate level and then communicate that to departments. Dean Carr stated the responsibility is on the department to hire correctly and to continue an appropriate annual evaluation process for all faculty. Hiring professors of practice is somewhat driven by budget limitations, so again the departments needed to prioritize new positions when hiring.
- Graduate Council asked for further clarification on the nomination form to clarify the required degree to serve on specific committees (e.g., doctorates only for doctoral

students, masters or above for masters students, etc.) The question was based on the difficulty of having a single level because of the different levels of students. Dr. Clarke asked about what we have the ability to develop. What do we use to develop our expectations? Dean Carr said implementing such restrictions is a system-wide concern and would need to be proposed for the EGC to consider. At present, once graduate faculty membership is given, all rights and privileges are granted, irrespective of the degree earned.

- A proposal for multiple tiers should not be connected in any way with employment categories. Should we base it on credentials?
- We need to explore the option that one of the new tiers should be the ability to teach graduate courses, but not serve in any other capacity; a “teach only” category.
- The term Graduate Faculty Associate is confusing. It should be clarified to avoid perception that they are members of the graduate faculty, which they are not.
- We are the only campus in the system with the “associate” designation. How do we ease out of this? Or should we, if a multiple tier system is implemented? What other categories should we have?
- We will continue this discussion at future meetings. Dean Carr will report on his discussion with Dr. Fritz.

Special request to grant graduate lecturer status – Department of SECD

Dean Carr discussed Professors of Practice and Lecturers who are hired to support the clinical program in SECD. They are teaching only specific courses to the professional students not to the general graduate student population. Lecturers are licensed in the field. We don't have separation for this like UNMC has. This would allow them to teach only in the professional programs, with the caveat that they not serve on graduate committees outside of the professional program.

Motion to approve lecturers to teach the professional courses up to four years, suspending the requirement for a per semester request. Motion passed.

Environmental Studies Specialization in the Master of Applied Science

This specialization was created a few years ago within several degree programs. Each program customized the specialization to fit their students' needs. This method allows the specialization to be interdisciplinary. The request is for the MAS students to be able to take courses in Environmental Studies Specialization. Courses are chosen by student/advisor and approved by David Gosselin. The question was raised about how many students have received it in each department? Motion to approve proposal passed.

Definition of professional degree programs

Dean Carr discussed the difficulty in identifying professional programs versus graduate programs. Professional programs usually require additional licensure requirements. Dr. Viesca stated that we may want to include teaching in this. We need to be inclusive of programs affected, particularly with issues involving accreditation, budgeting, student count, and rankings.

Graduate Student Assembly Report – listening sessions approved for graduate assistant stipends.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.