

UNL Graduate Council Minutes  
March 28, 2019  
206 Seaton Hall  
2:30 p.m.

Attendance: Jennifer Clarke, Rhonda Fuelberth, Laurie Lee, Yusong Li, Shawn Ratcliff, Clint Rowe, Kara Viesca, Dean Tim Carr (presiding). Absent: Christina Falci, Geoffrey Friesen, Julia Reilly

Approval of Minutes from February 21, 2019

Motion made to approve minutes as written; motion passed.

Consent agenda – course approvals

Motion made to approve following new courses: BSEN 812, BSEN 845, EMGT 891, LAW 695G, TEAC 908J. Motion passed.

Proposal for new degree – Plant Pathology (MS, PhD)

Motion was made to approve the proposal to establish new degrees at the masters and doctoral level in Plant Pathology. Current students in the Department of Plant Pathology earn their degrees/majors in Agronomy & Horticulture or Biological Sciences. Discussion followed. Three concerns were raised: 1) The proposed budget should reflect a zero additional resources needed to deliver the program; 2) direct admit statements are confusing and should be removed since decisions to admit students are already made on a case by case basis; and 3) the proposal needs to make it clear about the required courses including the number of course requirements specific to the degrees. The motion was amended to approve the proposal based on the recommended changes being made. Motion passed.

Proposal for modified degree – Master of Professional Accountancy (MPA)

The faculty are requesting permission to adjust the number of required credits from 36 to 30 for the MPA (currently offered as Option III). This will help them be competitive. Discussion followed about the difference of expectations/coursework between UNL students and non-UNL students entering the program, since some of the courses needed to sit for the CPA exam are offered at the undergraduate level. It was requested that modifications/clarifications be made about the two courses (6 credit hours) that are being moved from the graduate curriculum and placed in the undergraduate curriculum. How will affect non-UNL transfer students? Vote was tabled. Dr. Carr will ask for revised proposal and follow up with an email ballot.

Proposal for new specializations – Biochemical and Molecular Nutrition (MS, PhD)

Motion was made to accept both proposals. Short discussion followed. The MS degree is the Nutrition & Health Sciences major and the PhD is Human Sciences major. Both majors and courses are well established. Motion passed.

Great Plains-IDEA program overview

Rich Bischoff joined the meeting at the request of the Graduate Council to describe the Great Plains–Interactive Distance Education Alliance (GP-IDEA) programs. Key points:

- a. UNL's CYAF department has five programs associated with GP-IDEA. It has been in existence for over 12 years. Consortium was developed so that schools could work together to provide coursework and programs for students in areas where a single institution may not have the faculty expertise needed to deliver a full curriculum. Although courses are delivered by multiple institutions, students who enroll at UNL take the courses as if they are UNL courses. UNL "owns" each one of the courses and treats the faculty at the other institutions as UNL temporary lecturers. The entire curriculum is transcribed at and has credit hour production at UNL. Students take the course paying tuition through UNL as usual, although the tuition has been set at the same rate for all participating institutions.
- b. Control for quality and rigor: Each program conducts faculty meetings with each participating institution for reviewing and approving courses. The agreement made is that UNL will accept approved faculty from other institutions in consortium. However, each course, regardless of who teaches it, needs to be treated by the Graduate Council in the same as any UNL course. If a course does not meet UNL rigor it should be sent back to the proposing department at UNL for revision.
- c. Dr. Bischoff also reviewed AG-IDEA processes, which are differently than GP-IDEA. The AG-IDEA is a collection of courses (not a consortium) that a student may choose to round out their curriculum and plan of study.

A recent consent agenda listed GP-IDEA courses CYAF 819, CYAF 820, and CYAF 830, which prompted the invitation for Dr. Bischoff to visit with the Graduate Council. Information provided by Dr. Bischoff will be very helpful in reviewing the CYAF courses. Dean Carr will send the Graduate Council the course descriptions and will follow up with an email ballot.

#### Discussion on Option III masters degrees (not on original agenda)

The question was raised as to whether the Graduate Council should consider a global change to the Option III policy to reduce requirements from 36 to 30 credit hours. Such a proposal would need to involve a conversation at the Executive Graduate Council level. On a related topic, it was suggested the Graduate Council explore the creation of a "professional masters" in which the Option III could serve as the professional masters with 30 credit hour requirement. The issue will be discussed further at the next Graduate Council meeting.

#### Old Business

- a. Proposal for new certificate in Forensic Anthropology
 

The proposal was previously tabled because it depended heavily on a course that was called "Forensic Anthropology" that was only in the pilot stage and offered as specific topics course. Graduate Council recently approved the new Forensic Anthropology course. Motion was made to approve the revised certificate proposal with all established courses including Forensic Anthropology. Motion passed.
- b. Discussion on graduate faculty categories
 

Dean Carr was encouraged to draft a proposal to take to Executive Graduate Council that would allow the graduate "Associate" appointment to be renewable. This simple change would affect the current Graduate College policy section V. "Non-Graduate Faculty Rules for Teaching Graduate Courses" (page 52-53). The change would be to part A.2. that currently limits appointment to four years without the option for renewal.

Additional modifications to criteria could be made as appropriate. The category title of “Associate” could be changed.

The rationale for the proposed changes would be based on the need to accommodate non-tenure track faculty, primarily Professors of Practice, who teach and supervise students in non-thesis, practice-based masters programs. Examples of relevant degree programs include MAS, MCRP, MPA, MBA, MEd, MAE, MEM, MFA and MLS. Professors of Practice are in fact the best experts to teach and mentor graduate students in these professional, practice-based degree programs. Creating a more permanent category for non-tenure faculty is consistent with the Big Ten; allows for growth of non-thesis, occupation-specific degrees; and acknowledges the invaluable contributions that Professors of Practice make to graduate education.

#### Graduate Student Assembly Report

Shawn Ratcliff is the new President of GSA. The new vice-president will join the Graduate Council next year. We wish Julia Reilly well as she prepares to graduate.

#### Announcements

Dean Carr reminded the Council that it is time to call for nominations for new Council members in the areas of Business and Physical Sciences. He asked Council members to suggest names that Dean Carr can contact.

Meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eva Bachman, Ph.D.