

UNL Graduate Council Minutes
March 5, 2020
206 Seaton Hall
2:30 p.m.

Present: Jennifer Clarke, Geoffrey Friesen, Adam Houston, Tony Juritsch, Laurie Lee, Yusong Li, Shawn Ratcliff. Absent: Christina Falci, Rhonda Fuelberth, Kara Viesca. Dean Tim Carr presided.

Approval of Minutes from February 6, 2020

Dean Carr pointed out a correction was needed to include SCMA 935 in the list of SCMA courses. A motion was made to approve the minutes from the February 6, 2020 meeting with the correction. Motion passed.

New course proposals

Revised syllabi:

AECN 816 – The Graduate Council continues to raise the concern of this course duplicating content taught by the departments of Economics and Statistics. Council members have discussed the issue with both departments. Economics is supportive of AECN 816, but the department of Statistics is not. Jennifer Clarke agreed to facilitate a conversation between Ag Econ and Statistics. Motion was made to table until the Council hears the outcome of the conversation. Motion passed by majority vote (5 in favor, 1 opposed).

The discussion raised the broader issue of “who owns the subject matter.” As the Graduate Council reviews new course proposals, the question seems to be at the core of judging whether a new course duplicates an existing course. As with AECN 816, the Statistics department is simply asking to be consulted on new courses that are based on statistical methods. There could be areas of collaborations that are missed without first talking with each other. On the other hand, there are many departments offering courses that are essentially writing courses, but they are not asked to consult with the English department. One possibility for facilitating the review process is to include a question in CIM that requires the submitting department to justify or demonstrate that the proposed new courses does not duplicate an existing course. Dean Carr will explore this possibility.

AGRO 429/829 – This course was tabled at last meeting with the consent for final approval given to Dean Carr after receiving revision. Dr. Carr reviewed it and approved it.

ANTH 455/855 – Council members felt more parameters and guidelines need to be included regarding the nature and scope of the graduate expectations. The title needs to be corrected on the syllabus. Motion was made to request more information about graduate expectations with permission granted to Dean Carr to review and approve. Motion passed.

ANTH 901 – Motion to approve. Motion passed.

SCMA 935, 937, 939, 944, 945, 946, 955, 956 – These are not variable credits courses in a semester, but will be offered 1 or 2 or 3 credits (all students will take the course at the same credit hours set for that semester). The department’s goal is to take advantage of instructor expertise and to provide flexibility at the time each course is offered. Jennifer Ryan, the department chair, explained the courses would be based on the topic for that term and instructor. The Graduate Council was not sure from the syllabi what this means

because the syllabi does not delineate the expectations when taught at 1 vs 2 vs 3 credits. The Council would like to see examples of course content at each of the three credit hour levels. How would this look on the transcript and how would it differentiate at each credit hour level? The MyRED system does not allow easy retaking of courses with the same number, but with different credit hours. It was suggested the program use an alphabetic character to differentiate the different course credit levels (e.g., SCMA 935A, 935B, 935C). Motion was made to table, pending clarification. Motion passed. Geoff Friesen will convey the Council's concerns to Jennifer Ryan.

SCMA 994 and 999 – Motion was made to table, pending approval of the new specialization. Motion passed.

First-time proposals (all were moved to April meeting):

CHME 483/883
DSGN 497/897
FDST 414/814
LAW 601G
LAW 691G
PHIL 430/830
SOCI 430/830
THEA 441/841

Proposed specialization (PhD) in Supply Chain Management and Analytics

Motion to move to April. Motion passed.

Proposed modification to MS in Civil Engineering Option III (non-thesis)

Guest Dr. Dan Linzell discussed the modification request to reduce credit hours from 36 to 30. These are mainly graduate-only courses. The program is trying to bring it in line with similar degrees at other institutions. This is an effort to get students to be more likely to complete requirements in a timely fashion. Others on campus and other institutions have done this. Will this weaken the rigor? It was believed this would not disadvantage the students by taking two less classes. They can still focus on developing a skill set in their area. Motion was made to approve proposed change; motion passed.

Proposed PhD degree in Biomedical Engineering

Guest Dr. Dan Linzell explained that Biomedical Engineering currently exists as a specialization under Engineering major. Other previous Engineering specializations have moved to stand-alone majors. There is a demonstrated need and resources are in place. Motion was made to approve; motion passed.

Proposed specialization (MAS) in Conservation Agriculture

The specialization requires 18 credits hours within the online MAS degree. Motion was made to approve; motion passed.

Proposed certificate in Marketing Analytics

Guests Drs. Tammy Beck and Ravi Sohi were present to answer questions. Can students pursue this certificate and the Strategic Marketing certificate simultaneously? Yes, but the department would replace the required course that is included in both certificates. This certificate differs from the Strategic Marketing certificate by being specific to analytics. Motion was made to approve; motion passed.

Proposed certificate in Strategic Marketing

Guests Drs. Tammy Beck and Ravi Sohi were present to answer questions. This certificate focuses on general marketing. Motion was made to approve; motion passed.

Proposed Educational Neuroscience Certificate

Resubmitted from November 2019. The department has addressed the five main issues from that meeting. There was still confusion about the number of required credit hours is 12 or 15. Dean Carr will clarify this with the department. Motion was made to authorize Dean Carr to approve after confirmed the correct number of credit hours. Motion passed.

Graduate Student Assembly Report

Tony Juritsch and Shawn Ratcliff noted they are completing their terms on the Graduate Council as Shawn is graduating and Tony will not be in office next year. The Graduate Council thanked Tony and Shawn for their service.

Announcements

Two members terms are up: Christina Falci (Social Sciences) has served her two terms. A new member will need to be found. Jennifer Clarke (Agricultural Sciences and Biological Sciences) has served one term, so she is eligible to be nominated again. Nominations will be solicited via The Graduate Report and a ballot sent out.

Meeting adjourned: 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Eva Bachman, Ph.D.