

UNL Graduate Council Minutes
September 3, 2020
Via Zoom
2:30 p.m.

Attending: Jennifer Clarke, Geoff Friesen, Rhonda Fuelberth Adam Houston, Laurie Lee, Yusong Li, Laura Muñoz, Eric Rodene, Luz Sotelo. Presiding: Dean Tim Carr

Council members introduced themselves to the new members.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes of the Graduate Council meeting for May 7, 2020. Motion passed.

New course proposals

Revised syllabi – none received.

First-time proposals – See table below.

Old Business

- a. Proposed new certificate in Mathematics Education (revised)

The TLTE department submitted a revised proposal that largely addressed the Graduate Council concerns raised at the May 7 meeting. One remaining concern (recommendation) is for the department to be explicit about applicants having adequate math background and that the certificate courses focus on the pedagogical aspects of mathematics education. It was pointed out that the proposal states that priority admission will be given to “applicants with a clearly articulated statement of interest in mathematics education” and those “with previous experience with mathematics education.” Dean Carr will ask the department for a modification to explicitly state that adequate math background is need. No action taken.

Select EGC representative

The Executive Graduate Council for the NU system Graduate College includes two representatives from each NU campus. Laurie Thomas Lee is a current member; Yusong Li is current alternate. Geoff Friesen agreed to be nominated for regular member. By unanimous vote, Geoff was elected to serve as regular member of the EGC.

Select APC representative

Jennifer Clarke is a current member of the Academic Planning Committee and agreed to continue to serve as the Graduate Council representative. By unanimous vote, the Council affirmed her continued service as representative on the APC.

Delete specialization in Environmental Studies from MA, MS and PhD in Mathematics

Delete specialization in Survey Sampling from PhD in Mathematics

Delete specialization in Water Resources Planning and Management from MA and MS in Mathematics

All three proposals to delete specializations in Mathematics may be considered together. The same justification for all three: Lack of enrollment since 2014/2015 academic year. Motion was made to approve deletion of specializations in Mathematics. Motion passed.

Proposed accelerated master's program in Computer Science and Engineering

Accelerated master's programs allow up to 12 graduate courses to be taken by seniors. The graduate credit may be double counted toward both a bachelor's and master's degrees. Both the undergraduate faculty and graduate faculty need to agree to the proposal, which they have.

The UNL eligibility requirements include undergraduate GPA of 3.5. This point will need to be amended in the proposal.

The procedure for assigning graduate faculty advisors is not clear. An advisor must be made known to the student when admitted into the accelerated program.

Motion to approve (with minor changes as indicated) and with final approval delegated to Dean Carr upon receipt of revised proposal. Motion passed.

Graduate Student Assembly Report

The GSA held the first meeting of fall this week. Eric raised the issue of how budget reductions will affect graduate programs. Dean Carr recommended discussing further at monthly meeting with Eric and Luz Sotelo.

These agenda items moved to October meeting:

- Proposed modification to MS option III in Construction Engineering and Management
- Proposed modification to MS option III in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
- Proposed MS-PhD dual degree program in Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics

Announcements

None.

Meeting adjourned: 5:05
Respectively submitted by
Eva Bachman, Ph.D.

New Course Proposals
September 2020

	Requested Syllabus Modifications/ Action
MNGT 840	<p>Rhonda Fuelberth, Geoff Friesen</p> <p>Under "Course Activities," make explicit that the percentages refer to distribution of points for grade calculation.</p> <p>Motion to request revised syllabus. Final approval is designated to Dean Carr. Motion passed.</p>
MRKT 857	<p>Yusong Li, Adam Houston</p> <p>On page 3, paragraph 2, please consider alternatives to makeup quizzes. Giving makeup quizzes due to illness with doctor's note seems routine, rather than "extreme circumstances."</p> <p>Also, the syllabus is missing components required by the Faculty Senate policy. Please include all required information.</p> <p>Motion to request revised syllabus. Final approval is designated to Dean Carr. Motion passed.</p>
MRKT 858	<p>Geoff Friesen, Kara Mitchell Viesca</p> <p>Please include description of how each member of the "team" will be graded. Equally? How will you adjust for team members who contribute very little? This is a common problem with team projects and should be addressed in the syllabus.</p> <p>Also, the syllabus is missing components required by the Faculty Senate policy. Please include all required information.</p> <p>Motion to request revised syllabus. Final approval is designated to Dean Carr. Motion passed.</p>
MRKT 859	<p>Laurie Thomas Lee, Eric Rodene</p> <p>The syllabus is missing components required by the Faculty Senate policy. Please include all required information.</p> <p>Motion to request revised syllabus. Final approval is designated to Dean Carr. Motion passed.</p>
NRES 804	<p>Adam Houston, Luz Sotelo</p> <p>Under "Discussion Leaders," the syllabus states that weekly leaders will be assigned the first week. Do they change each week? What are the performance expectations of discussion leaders? How will they be graded? This information should be included.</p> <p>Include weekly schedule, indicating topics/assignments for each class meeting. Add specific references and/or assigned reading so students can prepare.</p> <p>The policy that late work will not be accepted should be reconsidered to accommodate individual who suffer illness or other emergency beyond their control.</p>

	<p>Motion to request revised syllabus. Final approval is designated to Dean Carr. Motion passed.</p>
NRES 805	<p>Same concerns as for NRES 804. Motion to request revised syllabus. Final approval is designated to Dean Carr. Motion passed.</p>
SOCI 882	<p>Laura Muñoz, Laurie Thomas Lee Assignments need more detail descriptions, including performance expectations (perhaps adding grading rubric). Participation is required and a significant portion of the grade, but the syllabus lacks any description of how participation will be graded. What are the expectations? Syllabus would benefit by including learning outcomes. In graduate-level courses, there is a required differentiation of faculty expectation regarding course work, student performance and grading criteria. In 800-level courses with an undergraduate-level counterpart, each of these differentiated expectations must be described in the course syllabus. Also, the syllabus is missing components required by the Faculty Senate policy (see attached). Please include all required information. Motion to table pending revision of syllabus. Motion passed.</p>