

UNL Graduate Council Minutes
January 7, 2021
Via Zoom
2:30 p.m.

Attending: Jennifer Clarke, Geoff Friesen, Rhonda Fuelberth, Adam Houston, Laurie Thomas Lee, Yusong Li, Laura Muñoz, Eric Rodene, Luz Sotelo, Kara Viesca; Dean Tim Carr (presiding)

Approval of Minutes from December 3, 2020

Motion was made to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

Old Business

a. Update graduate catalog certificate policy (second revision)

This is the third meeting to discuss updating the policy on graduate certificates. The Council would like the minimum grade for certificate courses to be C, but is concerned that if the course is to be used for a future degree, a grade of B may be required (when the course is in the major). The solution is to also modify the policy language for Scholastic Grades Requirements to include the following statement: "Courses taken to fulfill requirements for a graduate certificate and later applied toward a graduate degree must meet the minimum grade requirements for the degree, which may be higher." This sentence is also included in the certificate policy.

Motion was made to approve the updates to both certificate policy and scholastic grade requirements policy. Motion passed.

b. Proposed certificate in Financial Analytics (revision)

Council reviewed a revised proposal for a graduate certificate in Financial Analytics addressing concerns raised at the 10-1-2020 meeting about the distinction between the existing certificate in Business Analytics and the proposed certificate. Another concern initially raised was the admission requirement for calculus and statistics. The Council had asked that a UNL course equivalent be identified as an example of the level of calculus and statistics required. The revision addressed all of the issues.

Additional discussion centered on course overlap with Financial Analytics and Business Analytics. Geoff Friesen pointed out that course sharing between both certificates would not be allow (according to the new graduate certificate policy) and that advisors in CoB are fully aware of how to advise students pursing the certificates. The Council recommends including a statement in the proposal that acknowledges the "no double counting" policy.

Motion was made to approve the certificate in Financial Analytics. Motion passed.

Proposed modification to MS option III in Agricultural & Biological Systems Engineering

The proposal is to reduce the MS Option III in Agricultural & Biological Systems Engineering from 36 to 30 credits. The program will maintaining the need for 18 credits of graduate only coursework. No other changes are proposed. Jennifer Clarke pointed out that the justification does not mention how this change would benefit students. While the proposal seems

adequate, it would be helpful in future proposals to be more clear on how credit hour reduction benefits students. Dean Carr will advise programs with similar proposals to address this issue.

Motion was made to approve with suggestion to add statement regarding benefits to students. Motion approved.

Proposed specialization in Orientation and Mobility (M.Ed.)

The proposed specialization is four courses students already take in the M.Ed. degree program in the department of Special Education and Communication Disorders. Creating the specialization in Orientation and Mobility will help with marketing and recruiting. This program leads to professional certification accredited by the Academy for Certification of Visual Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP). No major concerns were raised.

Motion was made to approve the specialization in Orientation and Mobility. Motion passed.

Proposed certificate in Additive Manufacturing

A new certificate in Additive Manufacturing is proposed by the department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering. One concern is the prerequisite statement, which includes an undergraduate course, MECH 370 or equivalent. The problem is that undergraduate courses are not used as prerequisites for graduate courses, so this admission requirement needs to be removed. It was suggested that it be changed to emphasize the subject matter knowledge that is expected of students applying for the certificate. For example, this could be changed to "Basic knowledge in materials science including processing of polymers and metals."

Another concern was the paragraph stating, "If a student does not meet the above requirement, Conditional Graduate Admission is possible." Departments do not have the authority to place conditions on admission. If a student lacks the prerequisites, then they are not eligible for admission (as judged by the department admissions committee).

Also, the department should consider adding a GPA requirement for admission.

Motion was made to table, pending clarification and revision. Motion approved.

New course proposals (see attachment)

Graduate Student Assembly Report

No report

Meeting adjourned: 5:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Eva Bachman, Ph.D.

New Course Proposals

January 2021

Course	Primary Reviewers	Comments/Actions
AGRO 985	Rhonda Fuelberth Yusong Li	Describe the lab more thoroughly. How can it be done online? What are the learning objectives? If the lab is just a demonstration/observation, then it needs better explanation. Motion to table, pending revision and review by GC. Motion passed.
ALEC 819	Laura Muñoz Geoff Friesen	Differentiation between undergrad/graduate level requirements is stated in syllabus, but seem weak. States only a 15% difference with more leadership in classroom. Suggest that they consider how they are going to work with the number of graduate students. Motion to approve with suggestions. Motion passed.
ANTH 856	Eric Rodene Laura Muñoz	No major concerns. Well written syllabus. Motion to approve. Motion passed.
CBIO 841	Laurie Thomas Lee Adam Houston	Team taught course. Schedule and assignments unclear. Deadlines are up to professor, but everything due before finals week. Suggest clarifying assignment deadlines and be more specific on prereqs since this is a first semester course for new students. Motion to approve with suggestions. Motion passed.
CBIO 842	Luz Sotelo Jennifer Clarke	Syllabus is pretty clear, although expectations for assignments could be described more thoroughly. Motion to approve with suggestions. Motion passed.
CBIO 843	Yusong Li Eric Rodene	Syllabus is confusing in one place, regarding wording about substitution for first year students. Suggest making two separate tables and adjust the % for research presentation. Motion to approve with suggestions. Motion passed.
CBIO 844	Jennifer Clarke Laurie Thomas Lee	Syllabus describes Mock Peer Review worth 10% but doesn't explain what that is or when it occurs. Best practices for slide presentation. Motion to approve with suggestions. Motion passed.
CHME 809	Kara Mitchell Viesca Luz Sotelo	Differentiation between undergrad/graduate is weak. Assignments and grading at the graduate level is unclear. Assignments not well explained. Are there different learning objectives for graduate students? Motion to table, pending revision. Motion passed.

CYAF 813	Eric Rodene Jennifer Clarke	Syllabus generally well written. Just need clarification on group assignments and grading. How is it done differently for graduate students? Request revision and delegate final approval to Dean Carr. Motion to table, pending revision. Motion passed.
CYAF 881	Rhonda Fuelberth Geoff Friesen	No major concerns. Syllabus is visually appealing visually. Motion to approve. Motion passed.
GERM 950	Geoff Friesen Eric Rodene	Brief syllabus, number of credit hours is confusing. One credit hour, repeatable up to 3 times. If the course is repeated, how will each time be handled differently? Spread out over 4 semesters with 2 meetings per semester? One semester vs 4 semester expectations should be clarified. Motion to delegate final approval to Dean Carr, pending revisions. Motion passed.
HRHA 891	Kara Mitchell Viesca Yusong Li	Dean Carr explained that CAS is realigning all of their special topics and independent study course numbers and course descriptions. No major concerns. Motion to approve. Motion passed.
IDES 855	Adam Houston Rhonda Fuelberth	Differentiation between undergrad/grad not clear. What does "higher standard" for graduate students mean? The standards (grading, performance expectations, etc.) need to be explained. Motion to delegate final approval to Dean Carr, pending revisions. Motion passed.
JOUR 805	Rhonda Fuelberth Laurie Thomas Lee	No major concerns. Motion to approve. Motion passed.
MECH 929	Yusong Li Adam Houston	No major concerns. Motion to approve. Motion passed.
TEAC 949B	Kara Mitchell Viesca Geoff Friesen	No major concerns. Motion to approve. Motion passed.

New course proposals not reviewed due to lack of time

MUSC 890	Laurie Thomas Lee Kara Mitchell Viesca	
NUTR 975	Geoff Friesen Luz Sotelo	
NUTR 976	Adam Houston Jennifer Clarke	
PSYC 912A	Jennifer Clarke Luz Sotelo	

PSYC 912B	Laura Muñoz Rhonda Fuelberth	
PSYC 913	Yusong Li Eric Rodene	
PSYC 914	Adam Houston Laurie Thomas Lee	
SOCI 811	Luz Sotelo Adam Houston	
SOCI 812	Jennifer Clarke Kara Mitchell Viesca	
SPAN 955	Laurie Thomas Lee Geoff Friesen	
SPED 848	Eric Rodene Laura Muñoz	
SPED 850	Laura Muñoz Yusong Li	