

UNL Graduate Council Minutes
December 2, 2021
Location: Zoom
2:30 p.m.

Present: Jennifer Clarke, Andrew Donesky, Adam Houston, Laurie Lee, Xu Li, Laura Munoz, Eric Rodene, Kara Viesca, Brenda Wristen; Conducted by Dean Debra Hope

Approval of Minutes from November 4, 2021

Motion to approve minutes of the Graduate Council meeting from November 4, 2021. Motion approved.

Discussion of a Confidential Grade Appeal

Dean Hope reviewed a grade appeal that had previously been considered by a subset of the Council and denied. Following extensive discussion, a motion was made to approve the appeal to change the grade. The motion failed. It was a unanimous decision to deny the appeal. Dean Hope will prepare a letter to inform the student and the department.

Proposed edit to Graduate and Professional Catalogue Clarifying Definition of Graduate Course

Dean Hope asked the Council to consider an amendment to the Graduate Catalog to clarify the meaning of a graduate course. The amendment would change the sentence “These characteristics differentiate graduate courses from undergraduate courses by having more advanced graduate-level work and student performance expectations,” to include the statement, “not by the level of those enrolled.” (<https://catalog.unl.edu/graduate-professional/policies/graduate-credit/>) This helps further clarify the definition of “Courses with Graduate Credit” in the Graduate Catalog in the third paragraph. It is expected that the graduate courses offered will be delivered and graded with expectations based on requirements for graduate level education.

There was a motion to approve the statement and change in the Graduate Catalog. Motion passed.

Discussion of Course Proposals

Dr. Bachman reviewed the Graduate Catalog and the placement of the information from the document that Dean Carr, Dr. Viesca and Luz Sotelo developed during the previous academic year. It is incorporated into the definitions and guidelines found in sections A-C in <https://catalog.unl.edu/graduate-professional/policies/graduate-credit/>. The consensus of the Council was that these guidelines are sufficient for reviewing courses.

Graduate Student Assembly Report

GSA is meeting next week.

A bill is in proposal stage to have a town hall with Dr. Hope next semester. They plan to schedule it in February or March.

GSA members will be working on items early in spring semester for consideration by the Assembly. It was asked that if Council members receive queries, they respond to them quickly so that the work can continue.

Announcements

Dean Hope sought input from council members about how graduate students are feeling about the campus atmosphere/support for them on campus. Dr. Clarke said that she has heard the students feel supported and less happy with the state of Nebraska response to the pandemic. GSA seems to fully support of the direction on campus. Dr. Clarke report on a conversation with VC Wilhelm about the University joining the GEM consortium (<https://gemfellowship.org>). Dr. Clarke is following up, including discussion with General Council due to Nebraska state law governing affirmative action. She will bring it back to the council at a future meeting

Dean Hope reported the Spring semester 2022 COVID re-entry requirements are out. It is believed that will not disadvantage graduate students.

Dean Hope reported the Instructional Continuity Policy has been released.

After discussion about spring semester schedule, the January Council meeting was cancelled. Items that will be considered in February will include a proposal/discussion regarding English proficiency and possible proposals for certificates.

Meeting adjourned 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eva Bachman, Ph.D.