

UNL Graduate Council Minutes
April 1, 2021
Via Zoom
2:30 p.m.

Attending: Jennifer Clarke, Geoffrey Friesen, Rhonda Fuelberth, Laurie Thomas Lee, Yusong Li, Laura Munoz, Eric Rodene. Dean Tim Carr, presiding.
Absent: Adam Houston, Luz Sotelo, Kara Viesca.

Approval of Minutes from March 4, 2021

Motion was made to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

Old Business

a. Time to complete a master's degree (revisit from March 4, 2021 meeting)

At the March meeting, Graduate Council members requested to take the proposal to their constituents for feedback. Council members reported that most of the feedback was supportive of the proposal for the 5 year timeline to complete a master's degree. One concern of the 5 year limit is extension requests will be handled. For the one or two programs that might require more the 5 years to complete, Graduate Studies will work with those programs to allow a longer timeline (e.g., 6 years). Individual students on any master's program can also request an extension using established procedures. In addition, course work up to 10 years old will remain as it is currently. Dean Carr reminded the Council about the Academic Leave requests as another option students needing to "pause" their timeline to degree completion.

If approved, the new policy would be implemented starting Fall 2021 if we can everything in place. Graduate Studies will work with the Registrar's Office to determine the best way to handle it. Current students will be allowed to complete under the current guidelines of 10 years. Motion was made to approve. Motion passed.

b. Proposed certificate in Chromatography and Analytical Separations (revision)

The Department of Chemistry has responded to the Council's question/concerns, reiterating their request for expedited review. To be eligible for expedited review, the BOR policy requires the certificate to be a reasonable extension of existing program and all resources must already be in place. The core of courses must be in the home program, although up to 1/3 of the courses can be taught by other programs if they are normally taken as part of a degree program. The letter of support from Biochemistry and from Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering indicate their courses are normally available as electives to Chemistry students pursuing degrees. Motion was made to approve the certificate proposal. Motion passed.

c. Proposed certificate in Bioanalytical Chemistry (revision)

The Department of Chemistry has responded to the Council's question/concerns, reiterating their request for expedited review. The rationale is the same as for the certificate in Chromatography and Analytical Separations (see above). Motion was made to approve the proposal. Motion passed.

d. Proposed specialization (MA) in Community Colleges (revision)

Dean Carr indicated that the two revised MA specialization proposals, Community Colleges and Higher Education, should be considered together. It was further requested by the Council to concurrently consider the two new EdD specialization proposals in Community Colleges and Higher Education (see below) because the same list of courses comprise the MA and EdD specializations.

Both the MA and EdD specialization in Community Colleges have the same list of courses. The only change made in the revision was removal of “Administration” from the specialization title. See motion and vote below.

e. Proposed specialization (MA) in Higher Education (revision)

Both the MA and EdD specialization in Higher Education have the same list of courses. The revised proposal allows students to take a course related to community colleges as an elective, but limits to only one so there is a clear distinction between the Higher Education and Community Colleges specializations. See motion and vote below.

Proposed specialization (EdD) in Community Colleges

Proposed specialization (EdD) in Higher Education

Proposals were reviewed concurrently with MA specialization in Higher Education.

Motion was to approve all four specializations in Community Colleges (MA and EdD) and Higher Education (MA and EdD). Motion passed.

Proposed specialization (EdD) in P-12 System-Level Educational Leadership

There are no immediate plans to create a specialization at the MEd level. The specialization at the EdD level will provide definition for marketing and recruiting into the program. Helps to distinguish from the other specializations (i.e., career choices). The courses in this specialization will allow students to participate in the superintendent academy, which is needed for professional requirements. Teaching endorsements are offered elsewhere so this specialization helps align with them. Motion was made to approve. Motion passed.

Proposed new MS degree/major in Athletic Training

Dr. Dennis Perkey joined the meeting for this discussion. Dean Carr reviewed the proposal to establish a separate major to meet professional requirements as set by the Athletic Training accrediting organization. The primary change is moving the accreditation requirement from the bachelor’s to the master’s degree. Dr. Perkey responded to several questions:

The connections to Lincoln Southwest High School and Concordia University provide a greater range of experiences during their clinical rotations. The experiences have been expanded to across the lifespan.

The courses in the AT program are graduate-only. Typical course requirements and total credit hours are higher than most of our master’s degree. Regarding total credit hours, UNL is in the middle of other institutions offering AT programs. The requirements/standards for courses and clinicals are set by the profession, so higher total credit hours are needed to be accredited. Additional clinicals could be considered. Dr. Perkey will seek guidance from UNL Athletic

Medicine. There are a lot of alums working in the community and he will also seek input from them.

UNO and UNK also have Athletic Training programs. How are they distinguished/different from UNL? There is a great relationship with UNO and UNK. The UNL program offers different sports programs and therefore different clinical experiences, which match with student career goals. Some of the difference is the size of the sports programs. Some students pursue careers in smaller programs and will apply to UNO or UNK. There is no shortage of applicants.

Will athletic trainers previously accredited under the old system be grandfathered in? Yes, if they are already board certified.

Motion was made to approve. Motion passed.

Program Termination Appeal Report

On March 25, 2021, the Graduate Council held a special meeting to review the appeal of a doctoral student in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences whose doctoral programs was terminated. The Council voted to uphold the program termination (5 upholding termination; 1 against termination). Dean Carr reported that the department offered to change the student's enrollment status to a master's degree. The student agreed and will complete the master's degree in the summer.

New Course Approval Report

Courses approved in the past month:

ASCI 444/844	GLST 415/815	SOCI 412/812
BIOS 436/836	FDST 491/891	SPAN 465/865
CIVE 898	NRES 439/839	SPMC 875
ENGR 898/899/998	NRES 486/886B	

Graduate Student Assembly Report

Eric announced that next week is elections in their last meeting for the academic year. Eric was reelected President of GSA. Andrew Donesky, majoring in Agricultural and Biological Systems Engineering, was elected Executive Vice President. Both will serve as graduate student representatives on the Graduate Council for the upcoming academic year.

Graduate students continue to be concerned about the rising costs of health insurance premiums.

Announcements

Rhonda Fuelberth's second term on the Council ends with the June meeting. A call for nominations have been sent.

Meeting adjourned 4:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Eva Bachman, Ph.D.