

UNL Graduate Council Minutes
March 3, 2022
Location: Zoom
2:30 p.m.

Attending: Jennifer Clarke, Andrew Donesky, Geoffrey Friesen, Adam Houston, Laurie Lee, Xu Li, Laura Munoz, Eric Rodene, Kara Viesca, and Brenda Wristen. Dean Debra Hope, presiding.

Approval of Minutes from February 3, 2022

Motion was made to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

Proposal for Accelerated Masters in Civil Engineering

Clarification of the number of credits needed at the level of undergraduate senior status is needed – is it 89 credits or 90 credits? . It was determined that it should be 89 credits on the proposal. Clarification was given for concerns raised regarding courses listed on the proposal (the 400 undergraduate course number needs to be removed), grades required for the 800 courses for undergraduate and master’s degrees, and how students would matriculate into degree specializations once they were in graduate status. The value of an accelerated program and the number of credit hours being required in the proposal was discussed with Dr. Li presenting that the value for students includes completing both programs more quickly, with less cost to the student and while retaining the student for both their undergrad and masters. It would benefit the student and the university as a whole.

Summarizing: Recommended changes to the proposal were adding a grading minimum statement for courses for the masters, clarify only 800-level courses will count for the masters, and explicitly stating what is entailed in Option A or Option B so there is no ambiguity. Motion was made to approve with these changes. Motion passed. Two Council Members abstained.

Update of English Language proficiency discussion

Dean Hope advised discussions were ongoing at this point. Alisha Hanshaw will report back to the Graduate Council at a future meeting.

Further discussion of the proposed changes in Graduate Faculty Definitions

Dean Hope invited continued discussion of the proposed changes in Graduate Faculty definitions in the Graduate College Handbook, as presented by Vice Provost David Jackson last month. The extension from 4 to 8 years for current and new Graduate Faculty Associates will allow them additional time to build scholarship to prepare for application for full Graduate Faculty Status. Council members indicated it would be important to have it explicitly stated that scholarship of teaching would count as scholarship for Graduate Faculty status. There was also discussion on who should sit on masters and doctoral committees. Under the new guidelines, it is possible that individuals without doctoral degrees would be eligible to serve on dissertation committees. Dean Hope noted that the graduate committees in departments must vote on applications for graduate faculty and graduate faculty associates and thus are in control of which non-tenure track faculty receive these statuses. Also the Graduate Chair in each department must sign off on the chair and membership of doctoral supervisory committees. Dean Hope reported that discussions are ongoing with several graduate programs and senior academic leadership. Another draft of the proposed changes will come back out to vote by Graduate Council, then full Graduate Faculty. Provost Gold would like to have the changes on the agenda for the Board of Regents meeting in June.

Discussion on Course Proposals

Eva Bachman advised members to look at their assignments for course proposals. One member asked if there are emails that go out to the members regarding these assignments and Bachman advised there are reminder emails. Member stated these are very helpful.

Graduate Student Assembly Report

President Eric Rodene advised they had held their monthly assembly. Housing representatives were at the open forum on potential sale of the three university apartments that house primarily graduate and international students. The Graduate Student Assembly had also met with Student Affairs, affected residents, various administrators, and Association of Students of the University of Nebraska (ASUN) Executives regarding the closure of the Family Housing properties. It was reported that the decision to close these properties is on hold. Elections were held for new officers: Andrew Donesky was voted President Elect, Venn Jemkur was voted Vice President Elect. Andrew Donesky stated they are actively trying to update their website: <https://www.unl.edu/gsa> and have been reviewing the new budget model that has been put in place.

Meeting adjourned: 3:36 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Cordonier, Administrative Coordinator