

## UNL Graduate Council Minutes

April 7, 2022

Location: Zoom

2:30 p.m.

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

### Approval of Minutes from March 3, 2022

Motion was made to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

### Vote on revisions of Graduate Policy Handbook

Dean Hope began by discussing the many presentations to discuss changes to the definitions of graduate faculty status that had occurred since last meeting with the Council in March. Dean Hope shared that meetings with David Jackson, Faculty Senate Executive Committee, COE Group, Associate Deans of Graduate Education and Faculty as well as a special edition of Graduate Chair Dialogue. Dean Hope shared that there have been many faculty that have reached out to discuss these changes especially departments that have a large group of PoPs. Dean Hope summarized by stating that the feedback of has been very positive but there were concerns raised regarding POPs, and how easy it would be for an associate to move to full faculty graduate status with the new policy. It was stated that scholarship of teaching would be included. Also, that there would be the additional 4 years to graduate associate appointment to allow development of activities which could be used for strengthening the graduate faculty nomination.

Concerns raised included

- The number of changes to the existing system
- The brevity in the time frame for review by faculty so they can vote; the Council would like to delay vote by faculty until late Fall semester
- Many questions about professional program designation including how decisions are made to designate a professional programs, what guidelines such programs would follow, and implications for individual departments, especially those with multiple programs. There was a desire to have this information before a vote.
- Requirements for POPs – the expectation for publishing was concerning; how to work with current POPs to develop their ability to be considered for graduate faculty status; lack of support for apportionment for “scholarly activity” in some programs; dilution of the need/ability to hire tenure-leading faculty.
- If the Graduate Council chooses to vote no, it will mean that UNL may be restricted to the current plan.

Dean Hope offered the opportunity to continue the discussion in the next meeting along with further chance to gather feedback from colleagues. The question was called and a vote was taken. There were seven no votes and two yes. The Council wanted it know that their decision was based on needing more time due to the vast changes proposed for the definitions and not that they were against the progress/changes made. . They were afraid if they voted in favor the full faculty would only see their decision without further reviewing the revisions and base it solely on the Council decision.

### Proposed ProJOUR Accelerated Master's Program in College of Journalism and Mass Communication

There were concerns about the need to advise undergraduate students to ensure they are registering for the graduate level courses for graduate work and only be able to take the 800 level courses while an undergraduate. Dr. Bachman reminded the Council that undergraduates wishing to enroll in graduate courses must use the "graduate credit" process, be approved and enrolled by Graduate Studies.

Motion to approve the proposal. Motion passed.

### Proposed IMC Accelerated Master's Program in College of Journalism and Mass Communication

There were similar concerns to the previous Journalism program which were addressed during the previous discussion.

Motion to approve the proposal. Motion passed.

### Proposed Certificate in Entomology

Discussion centered on the learning outcomes listed in the proposal. The concern was they did not reflect graduate level coursework. The unusual proposal for the ability to be able to go back and get a certificate once you are admitted to the masters program was also discussed.

Motion to grant Dean Hope the ability to approve the certificate proposal after the concerns were addressed. Motion passed.

### Graduate Coursework proposals

Dr. Bachman reported there are none in the queue.

### Discussion of special committee member status

Dean Hope reviewed the progress made on making the Supervisory Committee process a work flow/electronic process. This will include an approval process by the Supervisory Committee Chair and the Graduate Committee Chair.

She noted that the designation of Special Member is problematic in the system as they do not have HR status (SAP). Discussion centered on the value of the Special Member for graduate student committees and what their roles/privileges should be in that status. Council members believe the current ability to have such external faculty/experts with voting privileges and roles (not chair/co-chair, outside member) as additional members to the required four on the committee should be continued. Council was reminded that those who are nominated must have a terminal degree in their major field.

### Graduate Student Assembly Report

President Andrew Donesky reported on the status of committees within GSA and updating the GSA web site. GSA took the opportunity during the pandemic/post-pandemic to review by-laws which has developed some flexibility in meetings.

He reported the GSA travel awards have been increased in amount.

Health insurance continues to be a concern. They are working with undergraduates and international students to determine concerns. Dean Hope asked that the topics of the proposed survey

of experience with the health insurance plan could be ready to discuss with central administration by the end of the academic year if possible to keep the discussion moving forward.

Graduate Housing is still on a holding pattern but VC Bellows is creating a task force to look into this issue.

A successful town hall meeting was hosted by GSA. Out of that came the request to have reduced meal tickets, like the faculty have, for campus dining centers. That was going to be worked on and should be ready to go by Fall.

President Donesky will be working the academic college deans to try to understand the new budget model, especially as it impacts graduate student stipends.

Feedback received by him has indicated the students wish to have more interdisciplinary social events. They will work on this as well. He inquired about Fall orientation and welcome for graduate students. The orientation will be online but discussion is being held at OGS about an in-person, outdoor welcome.

#### Announcements

Eva Bachman announced their will be a Milestone Information Session on April 20<sup>th</sup>. The March in person attendees may come again. Student, Staff, and faculty are welcome to come.

Meeting adjourned: 4:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Cordonier, Administrative Coordinator