

UNL Graduate Council Minutes

October 5, 2023

Location: Zoom

2:30 p.m.

Attending: Chris Bilder, Jennifer Clarke, Venn Jemkur, Tom Kubick, Xu Li, Maria Marron, Katie Mowat, Laura Munoz, Elizabeth Niehaus, Brenda Wristen, Eva Bachman, and Lisa Cordonier. Dean Hope Presiding.

1. **Approval of Minutes from September 7, 2023 meeting.**

Motion to approve, seconded, unanimously approved.

2. **Resubmission of Animal Health and Welfare and Precision Management Specialization Proposal**

From Sept 2023 Graduate Council Minutes: The Council requested the following changes: (a) Remove thesis/dissertation hours; (b) Reconfigure so at least one ASCI course is required for each track. This could include a special topics course; (c) Clarify course lists including removing PSYC 923 A B per department request; (d) Include documentation of support for each department with courses listed in the proposal; (e) Clarify process of advising students so that the group of courses they choose represents a coherent educational plan; (f) Provide more information on the innovation and impact of the program.

Discussion about some word processing clean up needed for the document and need for documentation of support from Departments of Statistics and Biochemistry. If that support is not forthcoming, those courses could just be dropped from the course listings. Motion to approve contingent upon Dean Hope resolving the issues noted above. Seconded and approved unanimously.

3. **Any needed curriculum discussions**

None needed.

4. **Graduate Student Assembly Report**

President Katie Mowat reported on two bills for co-sponsoring events that they passed recently. One was for an Educational Administration program on managing harassment of faculty. The other was a Trick-or-Treat event with Office of Graduate Studies for graduate students and their children.

5. **Announcements**

Jennifer Wood, new Associate Dean, and the professional development team are trying to grow the summer research program, grants, and develop additional training grant opportunities.

Dean Hope reported on the upcoming roll-out of the new policy on labelling certain courses as the practice of the discipline. According to the policy, these will be approved by each campus Graduate Dean. It is getting set up in the CIM system and OGS will have messaging to graduate chairs and college administrators discussing the change. Eva Bachman will handle questions. Graduate Council members raised the following concerns about having non-graduate faculty

teaching graduate courses and impact of tenure-line faculty. Dean Hope indicated that it will be up to departments to determine who is appropriate to teach the courses and departmental and college procedures are in place for students to raise concerns about course quality. Students may benefit from these courses by having instructors with a different type of knowledge than many graduate faculty. There was also discussion about how many courses a program could have with this designation and how that related to being a professional program. Dean Hope indicated that programs should not have all their courses with this designation and OGS will monitor and discuss with departments if it looks like this is occurring.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:09pm

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Cordonier, Administrative Coordinator