

UNL Graduate Council Agenda
February 6, 2025
Location: Zoom
2:30 p.m.

Attending: Rochelle Dalla, Xu Li, Tom Kubick, Maria Marron, Elizabeth Niehaus, Brenda Wristen, Venn Jemkur. Dean Hope presiding. Eva Bachman and Jason Carmichael.

Absent: Souparno Ghosh, Dai Shizuka, Alejandra Vasquez

1. **Approval of minutes from December 5, 2024 meeting:** Motion to approve minutes, seconded, and unanimously approved.
2. **Proposal to Designate Master of Engineering Management as a Professional Degree:** Dean Hope provided an overview of characteristics, criteria, and reasons for designating programs as “professional”, the relationship of professional programs to the graduate college, and an overview of this proposal. Discussion followed about professional program structures for faculty governance, which includes the involvement of the graduate committees of each college and Academic Planning Committee (APC). Graduate Studies will continue to provide oversight of courses offered and the procedures of professional programs. Discussion included how grade appeals and other student grievances would be handled in professional programs, and it was determined that a new policy would need to be created to handle appeals and grievances. Motion to approve, seconded and unanimously approved.
3. **Proposal for Dual MA-PhD in History:** Dean Hope provided a brief overview of the proposal and the rationale for establishing dual degrees. Motion to approve, seconded and unanimously approved. Prof. Wristen abstained.
4. **Proposals for Civil and Environmental Engineering:** Dean Hope provided an overview of the proposal’s historical background and reasons for the modifications. Prof. Li spoke on behalf of the graduate program explaining that the modifications will provide clarity, reduce confusion for students, and simplify their curriculum.
 - a. **Name change for MS and PhD degrees:** To match the recent change in name of their program to Civil and Environmental Engineering. Motion to approve, seconded and unanimously approved.
 - b. **Deletion of MS Environmental Engineering:** A separate MS in Environmental Engineering is not needed since Civil and Environmental are unified in one degree program and there is an appropriate specialization for environmental engineering. Motion to approve, seconded and unanimously approved.
5. **NU Graduate Policy Handbook changes (Executive Summary and annotated document):** Dean Hope explained the role of the NU system bylaws, its guidance for graduate colleges at each campus, edits in recent years to the bylaws. The current round of edits is needed to clarify some changes from the last changes and for housekeeping. Graduate Deans met several times to discuss potential edits, as did the Graduate Council to discuss changes to the UNL section of the bylaws. One clarification regarding labelling of adjunct and emeriti graduate faculty to indicate these are not separate graduate faculty statuses was recommended but the change could be addressed next time. Motion to approve, seconded and unanimously approved.
6. **Curriculum Discussion:** None.

7. **Graduate Student Assembly Report:** President Jemkur reported. GSA continues to prepare for graduate student appreciation week in coordination with the GSA presidents from other NU campuses. GSA is working with Housing Resources to ensure the off-campus housing needs of graduate students are also covered by the new housing app. GSA also met with Center for Advocacy, Response and Education (CARE) to help create resources that are better adapted to graduate students.
8. **Announcements:**
 - a. OGS Staffing: OGS hired Jamie Longwell as the new Operations Manager. She can be contacted about fellowships, assistantships, and financial related for students. OGS is currently reviewing applications for the Assistant Director of Graduate and Professional Student Experience and plans to start interviews soon.
 - b. Minimum assistantships guidelines have been posted with a rate increase of 3%.

Meeting adjourned at 3:46 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Carmichael