

UNL Graduate Council Minutes October 18, 2018

The UNL Graduate Council met at 2:30 p.m. September 20, 2018 in 206 Seaton Hall. Present were: Professors Christina Falci, Rhonda Fuelberth, Laurie Lee, Yusong Li, Clint Rowe, Julia Reilly (GSA representative), Shawn Ratcliff (GSA representative). Absent: Jennifer Clarke, Geoffrey Friesen, Kara Viesca. Dean Tim Carr presided, Dr. Rowe presided after the departure of Dean Carr for prior commitment.

Approval of September 20, 2018 Minutes

The minutes were approved as written.

Old Business

Course approval – CYAF 870. Original new course proposal included the prerequisite CYAF 951 and was reviewed at the 9-20-2018 meeting. The Council requested additional information on why a 900-level course could be a prereq for an 800-level. After consideration, the department decided to remove the CYAF 951 prereq and add “by permission.” Motion passed.

Consent Agenda – no issues raised on proposed course changes. Eva will approve in CIM.

College of Law professional courses

Dean Carr asked the Council if there was a need for the Council to vote on LAW courses. The distinction between professional degrees (i.e., leads to licensure; governed by an outside professional body) and graduate degrees was discussed. Currently only M.Arch, DVM, LAW are reported as professional degrees. The Law program is considered an academic program, so do LAW courses need Council approval? The Law program is represented on the Council through the Social Sciences area. Dr. Rowe reviewed Law course offerings and all but a few are listed as G courses. It was believed that it would be important for the Council to review Law courses, so further proposals will go to the Graduate Council.

Rights and responsibilities of Graduate Faculty

Dean Carr started the discussion by reviewing the issues surrounding the current method of hiring faculty, their faculty responsibilities and granting graduate faculty status. The criteria for Graduate faculty status is set by the University system Graduate College with the expectation that non-tenure track faculty who are granted Graduate Faculty status meet the same criteria as tenure track faculty. Alternatively, the EGC approved in 1981 a policy called “Permission for non-graduate faculty to perform specified duties,” which grants limited privileges to engage in graduate education. We call this category Graduate Faculty “Associate” on the UNL campus and is used extensively for Professors of Practice. However, the “Associate” designation is limited to four years. The question for consideration was, in view of increasing numbers of Professors of Practice, whether additional graduate faculty categories are needed. Dean Carr asked the Council to imagine different scenarios, particularly in professional and practice-based degree programs, in which Professors of Practice could be participating long-term in graduate education.

Key points arising from discussion (Dr. Clinton Rowe presided over the discussion):

- Multiple categories of graduate faculty are needed, each having varying degrees of rights and responsibilities (see table below).
- All categories/levels would be allowed to teach graduate level courses.
- One category for graduate faculty limited to just teaching without committee responsibilities. It would allow for long-term teaching positions with no expectation of research. Use the same language/concept as the Graduate Lecturer for hiring (i.e., terminal degree normally accepted for employment in the discipline OR has achieved some extraordinary accomplishments as determined by the Graduate Committee of the nominating department).
- Distinguish between the ability to serve on and chair committees at the masters and doctoral level. Can Research Faculty and/or Professors of practice serve on doctoral committees?
- Applicants/nominees to Graduate Faculty categories should be approved at multiple levels. The department must make a case that the research is meaningful and relevant to serve on committees. The nomination will be vetted by the Graduate Dean as well as central administration.

Responsibility	Full member	Research professor	Prof. of Practice	Teach only
May vote on any matter presented to the Graduate Faculty	X			
May hold any elected office in the Graduate College	X			
Chair doctoral supervisory committees	X			
Chair master's committee	X	X	?	
Serve on supervisory committees	X	X	X	
Serve of final examining committees	X	X	X	
May teach graduate courses	X	X	X	X
Vote on GF nominations in dept.	X	?	?	?

Graduate Student Assembly Report

Coffee hour next week on campus climate and diversity. Looking for Graduate Students to attend N150 session tomorrow.

Adjourned at 4:35 p.m.