

**UNL Graduate Council Minutes  
November 15, 2018**

The UNL Graduate Council met at 2:30 pm on November 15, 2018 in 206 Seaton Hall. Present were: Clint Rowe, Christina Falci, Laurie Lee, Kara Viesca, Geoff Friesen, Rhonda Fuelberth, Jennifer Clarke, Julia Reilly (GSA representative), and Shawn Ratcliff (GSA representative). Absent: Yusong Li. Dean Tim Carr, presiding.

Approval of minutes from October 18, 2018

Motion to approve minutes as written: Passed.

Old Business

- College of Law professional courses: Law courses that also have a “G” designation (for graduate credit) historically have not been submitted through Graduate Studies for review/approval by Graduate Council. Eva contacted support staff in Law to inform them curriculum changes for Law courses with a “G” designation should be routed through Graduate Studies; Law will begin using this process.
- Graduate faculty designations: Dean Carr had conversations with David Jackson and Donde Plowman regarding a goal to accommodate faculty who are non-tenure track but engaged in graduate education. This situation often occurs in professional or practice-based degree programs. Central administration is tentatively supportive of the idea. This would potentially be a new category for graduate faculty who are only teaching. A category for graduate lecturer on a one course/one semester basis already exists. Could potentially just extend the time period for this category. The new designation would include teaching but may also include the ability to supervise master’s students in practicum/internship projects that are internal to the program.
  - Questions: Should approval include master’s and doctoral professional programs together or separately? Should the category be broken down as master’s thesis vs non-thesis (assuming professional programs would be non-thesis)?
  - Clarification to the table presented in the October minutes to indicate that “Serve on supervisory committees” means doctoral committees.

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	?	?	?

- Dean Carr added that on UNL offer letters for tenure-track positions, language is included to automatically grant graduate faculty status. But it should also read for faculty “who meet the required criteria.” A few tenure track faculty have been hired without terminal degrees, but were automatically granted graduate faculty status. Template offer letter have recently been updated.
- Per Dean Carr’s discussion with David Jackson, his impression was that Susan Fritz won’t entertain multiple levels of graduate faculty and we will have more luck with one or two additional levels: Graduate Faculty with full rights and Graduate Faculty who teach classes and serve on committees and Graduate Faculty who teach only. For professional programs, a firm list is needed and possibly expanded to include programs such as Master of Engineering Management (MEM), Master of Applied Science (MAS), Master of Business Administration (MBA) and others.
- Dean Carr will draft a proposal and provide at the next Graduate Council meeting.

Consent agenda

- GEOL 451/851 – Council felt undergraduate requirements vs. graduate requirements were not clearly identified. Dean Carr will request a revision and resubmission from the department.
- ANTH 884 – Consensus was there are no specific requirements that would elevate the course for graduate credit. The course description is also not reflected in the syllabus. Seems to be duplicating material from another class and not graduate level material. Explanation is needed. Dean Carr will request a revision and resubmission from the department.
- ARCH 844 – What is the differences between 544 and 844? Why dual list 544/844? Dean Carr will request further information and resubmission from the department.
- BIOC 801 – no concerns. Approved.
- ENG 833 – no concerns. Approved.
- MECH 939 – fix a typo; need to include all required sections for syllabi. Dean Carr will request a revision and resubmission from the department.

Specialization name change from “Hydrologic Sciences” to “Hydrological Sciences”

The proposal is to clarify the specialization name based on accepted terminology in the discipline. Motion passed.

### Specialization deletion: “Agricultural and Biological Systems Engineering”

This was originally a unified program called Biological Engineering, a concept which did not work. A separate proposal is being developed for the doctoral program to change the name to make it the same as the name of the department. Question was asked what if the name change proposal is not approved. Even if that happens, this deletion request is valid. Motion passed.

### Journalism professor request to enroll in MBA program:

Dean Carr cited policy from The Graduate College Policy Handbook: “While it is not the intention of the University of Nebraska to deny access to graduate education to any qualified person, the University of concerned about potential conflict of interest, or even the appearance of such a conflict, when faculty members of this University pursue advanced degrees in its Graduate College.” The Handbook also states, “The advanced degree cannot be in the person’s own department or area or in a closely related department or area.” Council members were concerned that the faculty member understands all of the restriction while pursuing the degree. Tim indicated this information would be included in the approval if passed. Motion passed.

### Discussion – Graduate Lecturer appointment extension to four years:

Current UNL Graduate Council policy: “A staff member who does not qualify for Graduate Faculty status may be recommended as a lecturer for a graduate level course. The lecturer appointment is valid only for the semester for which it is approved.” Dean Carr asked the Council to consider whether to continue current practice or extend the appointment term for up to four years. Approval would still be for specific courses. This policy could apply to professional programs. Key discussion points:

- Graduate Faculty Associates are a different category and defined in the Graduate College Policy handbook as “...Graduate Faculty affiliated with a specific department or interdepartmental area and with approval by the campus Dean for Graduate Studies. Graduate Faculty Associates may teach graduate courses, direct masters theses, serve on or chair masters examining committees, and serve on doctoral supervisory committees. Graduate Faculty Associate status is granted for a specific term not to exceed a period of four years from the start of the staff member’s faculty appointment.”
- Practice at UNL has been to renew the Associate status for sometimes multiple four-year appointments. We cannot continue the practice.
- Currently, all Graduate Faculty Associates have had their status reset with an additional four-year appointment to end May, 2022.
- The additional four-year period will give time to work out new policies, allow faculty time to prepare portfolios and apply for full Graduate Faculty status if appropriate and for departments to make strategic faculty hires.

- Dean Carr asked the Council about the best process for disseminating the above information? Consensus was it is better to over-communicate, so send to current Graduate Faculty Associates, Department Chairs/Directors, Graduate Committee Chairs and graduate support staff.
- Current challenge is for UNL to develop a central policy for Graduate Deans on all campuses that would be acceptable, while addressing the unique needs of each campus. Dean Carr will draft a proposal and provide for the next Graduate Council meeting.

Graduate Student Assembly Report:

Julia Reilly reported there will be a social event in December with a focus on graduate student mental health. It was pointed out that other units on campus are focusing on this topic:

- Student Affairs has established a student well-being and resilience position.
- Office of Graduate Studies has a Student Success Coordinator and Associate Dean for professional development positions; workshops have been developed for delivery throughout the academic year for students on this topic.
- The Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) office that moved to Nebraska Medicine when the University Health Center moved is now back under the administration of Student Affairs and offer a wide range of mental health services.

Currently working on bills promoting academic freedom for graduate students. Also working on a project to clean up Bylaws of the Graduate Student Assembly.

Meeting adjourned 4:30 pm

Submitted by Donna Hahn