

UNL Graduate Council Minutes
October 3, 2019
206 Seaton Hall
2:30 p.m.

Present: Jennifer Clarke, Rhonda Fuelberth, Adam Houston, Tony Juritsch, Laurie Thomas Lee, Yusong Li, Shawn Ratcliff, Cara Viesca, Dean Tim Carr presided. (Absent: Christina Falci, Geoffrey Friesen)

Approval of Minutes from September 5, 2019

Motion was made to accept minutes as written. Motion passed.

Old Business

a. Review of doctoral degree requirements

At the 9/5/2019 meeting, Dean Carr asked the Council to review doctoral degree requirements in view of concerns that some departments are requiring peer-reviewed publications (or submission of manuscripts) before allowing students to schedule their final oral examination. The Council agreed to develop a statement to clarify the expectations of dissertation exams. The following statement was developed for inclusion in the Graduate Catalog. No action was taken at this time, so discussion will continue at the next meeting:

“Approval of the dissertation is solely the responsibility of the Supervisory Committee. The academic expectations and standards of acceptability for dissertations, as established by each departmental Graduate Committee, shall be the benchmark by which dissertations are judged. No individual or organization other than the University of Nebraska graduate faculty (or non-graduate faculty members granted permission to serve on Supervisory Committees) may participate in judging the acceptability of a dissertation, including (but not limited to) journal editors, peer reviewers, and adjudicators.”

“Submission of manuscripts or other works for publication shall not be a requirement for the graduate degree. This does not preclude departmental Graduate Committees from stating in their graduate handbooks the expectation that a dissertation should yield publication-quality research or juried works; nor does it prevent graduate students from submitting manuscripts and publishing articles prior to defending their dissertation.”

b. Review policy on retroactively awarding degrees and certificates

Dean Carr reviewed the rule on allowing graduate credit earned from previous graduate degrees to count toward subsequent degrees. While the language is clear regarding subsequent degrees, the Council discussed adding language that also covers graduate certificates. It was proposed that the current rule, as stated in the *Majors, Minors and More* section of the Graduate Catalog, should be modified as follows to include graduate certificates:

“No graduate credits from a graduate degree previously awarded at any institution, including UNL, will be accepted toward a subsequent master’s degree or graduate certificate program.”

A motion was made to approve the modification. Motion passed.

c. Report on CHME 371/871 and STAT 878

Dean Carr reported that appropriate revisions were received for CHME 371/871 and STAT 878. He reviewed and approved the courses on behalf of the Council, as instructed by the Council at the September meeting.

Consent agenda – new course proposals

CDEV 834 – Several Council members expressed some concern about this GP-IDEA course lacking in rigor, although not being able to cite guidelines for the UNL campus. Motion was made to approve course. Motion passed. (NOTE: It was suggested that a sub-committee work on developing guidelines for what constitutes graduate courses. Dr. Viesca was willing to do that. Shawn Ratcliff said that Creighton has good information.)

LAW 576G – The syllabus lacked minimum information needed, particularly the schedule of topics, grading schema, learning objectives, required syllabus items by faculty senate. There was a concern that it listed zero contact hours and that the proposed course description listed 1-3 credit hours. So is it a variable credit course? Tabled.

NRES 415/815 – The only graduate differentiation was the grading model. Lacked information about the required labs; a grading rubric for the 60 extra points; and a description of the project. What does “parallel” class mean? Does this require dual enrollment or is it a prerequisite? Tabled.

SLPA 998 – Questions were raised about the need for this to be separate from “independent study.” Dean Carr stated there are multiple titles for similar type courses suitable for the type of degree. The Council asked for clarification on timing of the choice of grading option. Motion was made to approve with clarification. Motion passed.

SPED/SLPA 992 – Motion was made to approve. Motion passed.

Proposed certificate in Quantitative Measurement and Modeling

The Department of Educational Psychology is proposing to create a QMM graduate certificate to compliment the faculty expertise. The department currently offers a specialization and “stand alone” minor in this area. They plan to eliminate the minor once the QMM certificate is approved. It was recommended that the program include in their proposal what jobs/market exists in this area. Graduate Studies will convey the recommendation. Motion was made to approve. Motion passed.

Accelerated Master’s Program requirements and guidelines

Guidelines were developed by Graduate Studies and presented to the Council for review. The guidelines have already been vetted with the Executive Vice Chancellor’s leadership team that included Amber Williams, Amy Goodburn, and Renee Batman. Accelerated Master’s Programs are essentially an agreement between the undergraduate and graduate degree programs that allows seniors to take up to 12 graduate credits that can count toward both the

bachelor's degree and master's degree. No new degree programs are required. No new Graduate College policies are required since current policy already allows seniors to take up to 12 graduate credits. Council members requested a minor edit. Motion has made to approve the guidelines. Motion passed.

Differentiated graduate course expectations

Dean Carr presented a proposal to revise the Graduate Catalog description of graduate course expectations. The intent is to provide clearer guidance on syllabus language and expectations. The following revision was discussed:

“A student who enrolls in a course must have completed the general prerequisite, including any specific prerequisite indicated for the course. In graduate-level courses, there is a required differentiation of faculty expectation regarding course work, student performance and grading criteria. In 800-level courses with an undergraduate-level counterpart, each of these differentiated expectations must be described in the course syllabus.”

Motion was made to approve with the revised statement. Motion passed.

Campus-wide graduate faculty meeting

Dean Carr told the Council that in previous years UNL scheduled campus-wide meetings of the graduate faculty. He asked if the Council believed that a meeting of all graduate faculty would be beneficial and how often should it be held. Questions were raised regarding the content/agenda. Historically, the meetings were informational, focusing on the Graduate Council's significant action, and allowing for questions and answers.

After some discussion, it was suggested that a “newsletter” (like Nebraska Today) might be the best method. The Council liked that idea. Dean Carr stated he would work with staff to create a section for the Graduate Report. Council members said a summary of Graduate Council actions at the end of the semester would be beneficial.

Graduate Student Assembly Report

President Ratcliff asked Council members to pass along to him if they hear about students being turned away for health center due to the type of courses in which they are registered (e.g., lecture vs. dissertation hours). They should also contact Caroline Knuth in the Office of Graduate Studies.

Adjourned: 5:02 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Eva Bachman, Ph.D.