

UNL Graduate Council Minutes
November 7, 2019
206 Seaton Hall
3:00 p.m.

Present: Jennifer Clarke, Christina Falci, Geoff Friesen, Rhonda Fuelberth, Tony Juritsch, Laurie Lee, Yusong Li, Shawn Ratcliff, and Kara Viesca. Absent: Adam Houston. Dean Tim Carr presided. Tammy Beck was present to provide insight on the College of Business proposals.

Approval of Minutes from October 3, 2019

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

Old Business

a. Review of doctoral degree requirements

Following on discussion at the 9/5/2019 and 10/3/2019 meetings, the Council made a motion to include the following statement in the Graduate Council. The motion passed:

“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.”

Consent agenda – new course proposals

a. CIVE 891-Special Topics in Civil Engineering.

After brief discussion, it was clarified that this course will be used to develop new courses prior to establishing a specific course number. Motion was made to approve; motion passed.

b. CIVE courses: 894, 990, 990E, 990M, 990R, 990T, 990W, 991, 994.

The department is proposing to use new course numbers for special topics and independent study courses. The proposals and syllabi are confusing, so the department will revise. Motion was made to table; motion passed.

c. CYAF 819-Advising FCCLA.

Graduate Council members again raised the concern about the lack of rigor in this (and other) GP-IDEA courses. The amount of work described in the syllabus is well short

of a typical 3 credit graduate course. Rather than denying approval, the Council asked that Dean Carr meet with department chair, Paul Springer, to voice the Council's concerns so he may contact the university that is teaching the course. Lack of rigor has been an ongoing concern, so Dean Carr will provide Dr. Springer with the syllabi for the last three GP-IDEA courses taught by other universities.

- d. MATL 492/892-Special Topics.
MECH 492/892-Special Topics.

Syllabi do not describe differentiation between undergraduate and graduate. The department should avoid dual listing and offer 492 and 892 separately. What are the grading rubrics, expectations, assignments? Motion was made to table both because of missing information about level differentiation. Motion passed.

- e. STAT 871-Generalized, Linear, and Mixed Models.

The course was created for non-majors. Majors should take STAT 971 and not take both 871 and 971. Graduate Council requested a change to the description indicating this course is specifically intended for non-majors. Eva Bachman can make the change on behalf of the department. Motion to approve with clarifying language for the graduate catalog. Motion passed.

- f. STAT 885-Introduction to Data Mining and Machine Learning.

Motion to approve; motion passed.

- g. STAT 931-Advanced Spatial and Spatio-temporal Statistics.

Motion to approve; motion passed.

Proposed new certificate in Supply Chain Analytics

Guest Dr. Tammy Beck described to the Council the effort to make clear distinctions between "analytics" and "management" in the College of Business. The area of analytics will focus on methodology. The Business Analytics certificate has broader application, whereas the Supply Chain Analytics is more specific. Students will not be able to use the same courses for both certificates. Dr. Beck indicated that course substitutions could be made if a student wished to pursue both certificates, although CoB would most likely advise a student to pursue a master's degree if one certificate was already completed.

There was some concern that SCMA853-Business Data Mining & Descriptive Analytics was not being part of the Supply Chain Analytics certificate. Would the department consider offering SCMA853 as an elective? Dr. Beck stepped out of the room to call the department chair, who confirmed they would be willing to include SCMA853 with pending approval of the graduate committee. A revised proposal will be submitted the next day. Motion was made to approve the new certificate, including SCMA853 as an elective. Motion passed.

Proposed modification of certificate in Business Analytics

Motion was made to approve the course work modifications. No concerns were raised. Motion passed.

Proposed modification of certificate in Supply Chain Management

Motion was made to approve the course work modifications. No concerns were raised. Motion passed.

Proposed certificate in Educational Neuroscience

Graduate Council was generally supportive of the concept for a certificate in Educational Neuroscience, but the proposal seems incomplete and needs to be much more thorough in its description. The Council asked for clarification on the following points:

1. The rationale for an interdepartmental approach is not well described. There is one sentence in section II.A. that states, "There is also a strong focus on the neural foundations of speech/language development and literacy," which seems to be secondary to the main focus of Educational Neuroscience. The proposed certificate name does not include speech/language. A more thorough description and rationale for the certificate is needed, especially with the interdepartmental approach. Why include SPLA courses? What is the benefit to students? Would a broader intent attract a wider audience? What is there relevance to future occupations? Why is there only one education course when the certificate is called "Educational" Neuroscience?
2. As an interdepartmental certificate, the proposal does not qualify for expedited review. Therefore, sections V. and VI. of the proposal will need to be completed, including submission of each course syllabus.
3. SLPA 896 is an independent course with variable credits. Independent study courses are generally not allowed in certificates. A strong rationale for including this course needs to be included.
4. SLPA 981 has the title of "seminar," but is categorized in the graduate catalog as a "lecture" course. Please explain the apparent mismatch.
5. What is the "advisory board" mentioned in section II.E.?

Motion was made to table the decision until concerns are addressed and a revision submitted. Motion passed.

Proposed change in CIP code for Agricultural Economics (MS, PhD)

Proposal is to change current CIP code 01.0103 "Agricultural Economics" to 45.0603 "Econometrics and Quantitative Economics." The Council interpreted the request in two ways. They questioned whether the request reflects a significant departmental shift in its identity and mission or whether it simply reflects a move toward using more quantitative methodology. The Council felt the proposal needs a more extensive explanation, particularly concerning the first possibility, as a large departmental shift could encroach on the disciplinary focus of other departments. The Council raised several questions that were not addressed in the proposal:

1. Is the department abandoning "agricultural economics" as its primary focus? If not, why is the CIP code necessary? Would changing the CIP code negatively affect the department's identity?
2. Does increasing the use of quantitative methodology really change the entire direction and focus of the department?
3. The curriculum relies on the departments of Economics (and Statistics) to provide required courses. Then what makes Agricultural Economics unique? By changing the CIP code, is the department, in effect, providing a rationale for eliminating the graduate degrees in Agricultural Economics if there is now little difference with Economics?

4. The CVs of the faculty, particularly junior faculty, do not necessarily align with the proposal justification.
5. Do they plan to rename the department and major?

Motion was made to table until further clarification from the department. Motion passed.

Graduate Student Assembly Report

None

Announcements

None

Adjourned: 5:00 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Eva Bachman, Ph.D.