

UNL Graduate Council Minutes
December 5, 2019
206 Seaton Hall
2:30 p.m.

Present: Jennifer Clarke, Christina Falci, Geoffrey Friesen, Rhonda Fuelberth, Adam Houston, Tony Juritsch, Yusong Li, Laurie Lee, Shawn Ratcliff, Kara Viesca; Dean Tim Carr presided.

Approval of Minutes from November 7, 2019

A motion was made to approve the minutes as written. Motion passed.

Program Termination Appeal

A master's degree student in Animal Science submitted written documentation to appeal the termination of his program. The student previously appealed to the departmental Graduate Committee, which upheld the termination. After lengthy discussion, a motion was made to uphold the termination. Motion passed.

Old Business

- a. CIP code change in Agricultural Economics (update): Dean Carr conveyed the Council's concern from the November meeting and encouraged the submission of a revised proposal. The department head, Larry Van Tassel, acknowledged their interest in submitting a revised proposal.
- b. Proposed certificate in Educational Neuroscience (update): Dean Carr conveyed the Council's concern from the November meeting and encouraged the submission of a revised proposal. No response from the department as of today's date.

Consent Agenda – New Course Proposals

- a. AECN 816-Applied Econometrics.
Appears to be duplicating statistics courses that already exist. Justification needs to state what makes this course unique and why it is needed.
AECN 872-Mathematical Tools for Applied Economics.
Similar content to courses in ECON. Appears that most (all) of Ag Econ econometrics and statistics courses are offered in ECON. Duplicates the one-week boot camp that ECON offers to incoming graduate students, including business courses. Perhaps an opportunity for departments to collaborate.
Motion was made to not approve AECN 816 and AECN 872; any future proposal should include clarification about possible duplication of existing courses on campus. Motion passed.
- b. ANTH 804; ANTH 841; ANTH 901.
Discussion focused on number of credit hours for ANTH 901. Should a professional development course be worth 3 credits? If meant for master's students, should it be offered at 900-level? No other concerns. After further discussion, motion was made to approve all three courses. Motion passed.

- c. AREN 850.

Syllabus is missing several items. The proposal needs more detailed justification for offering the course as zero credit or up to 9 credits. What is the value to the student for offering as zero credit vs. 1 credit vs. 9 credits? What is the grading criteria and performance expectations that determines pass/no pass? Who makes that determination? What is a “student reflection” assignment? How will it be graded? Motion was made to table, pending clarification on the issues raised by the Council. Motion passed.
- d. CHME 483/883.

The syllabus needs more information to differentiate between 400 and 800 level. Motion was made to table, pending revisions to the syllabus. Motion passed.
- e. GEOL 947.

After discussion, no revisions required. Motion was made to approve. Motion passed.
- f. LAW 575G.

Council members questioned why they are establishing a permanent course for a visiting professor. The syllabus also needs clarification on the criteria used for adjusting grades. Motion was made to table, pending clarification on issues raised. Motion passed.
- g. MRST 896.

No concerns. Motion was made to approve; motion passed.
- h. SCMA 994; SCMA 999.

Main issue is that no doctoral degree program or specialization in SCMA currently exists. Dr. Friesen stated that proposals are in development. Motion was made to table both courses until the Council has received a proposal for a doctoral specialization and/or degree in SCMA. Motion passed.
- i. SLPA 864.

The Council questions why combining courses is necessary. Need to provide justification. Confirm that there are no prerequisites. Add justification for 4 credit course rather than 3 credits. Motion was made to table for clarification and justification. Motion passed.
- j. SLPA 874.

Dividing previous course into two, but no other course is listed as “Clinical Decision Making II.” Motion to table pending clarification. Motion passed.
- k. SLPA 982.

Two prerequisites are undergraduate; however, not unusual for clinical programs. Dean Carr will ask the department to add “permission” in the prerequisites. Motion was made to approve. Motion passed.
- l. THEA 442/842.

The syllabus needs more detail on graduate level expectations and grading criteria. Greater “complexity and difficulty” for graduate student work needs specific detail. Motion to table, pending additional information on graduate differentiation and clarity on the performance expectations of graduate students. Motion passed.
- m. THEA 444/844.

No concerns. Motion was made to approve; motion passed.

n. THEA 447/847.

The syllabus differentiates graduate student expectations by having them do more work. Need a more thorough description regarding the expectations of quality, not just quantity of work. Motion was made to table, pending additional information on quantity vs. quality of performance expectations. Motion passed.

Proposed specialization in Conservation Agriculture (Master of Applied Science)

Motion was made to postpone until next meeting. Motion passed.

Guidelines for differentiation of undergraduate and graduate courses update

Tim explored guidelines for undergraduate courses. Kara explored guidelines for graduate courses. Not able to find language that describes expectations for either. Kara thinks the Graduate Council needs to do some collective thinking on this. Perhaps a subcommittee. We need to focus on what makes a graduate course different. What defines rigor? What should be the guiding principles? We'll continue this discussion at future meeting.

Graduate Student Assembly Report

Nothing to report.

Meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eva Bachman, PhD