

UNL Graduate Council Minutes
October 1, 2020
Via Zoom
2:30 p.m.

Present: Jennifer Clarke, Geoffrey Friesen, Rhonda Fuelberth, Adam Houston, Laurie Lee, Yusong Li, Laura Muñoz, Eric Rodene, Kara Viesca; Dean Tim Carr, presiding. Absent: Luz Sotelo.

Approval of Minutes from September 3, 2020

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

Graduate course definition and guidelines

Dean Carr informed the Council that he, Luz Sotelo, and Kara Viesca met as a subcommittee to draft an outline for creating new graduate course definition and guidelines. Luz wrote the outline (attached) for discussion. Are the key points appropriate and adequate as a framework for writing definition/guidelines? Are there other points that need to be included? After brief discussion, the Council supported the outline and encouraged the subcommittee to proceed with writing a full document for Council review at a future meeting.

Proposed modification to MS option III in Construction Engineering and Management

Proposal is to reduce total credit hour requirement from 36 to 30; also to reduce graduate-only course requirement from 18 to 15 hours. Question was asked whether graduate-only could be reduced to 15 hours in view of catalog description that “at least 18 hours must be in the major.” It was decided that the intent of the policy is that “at least one-half of the credit hours must be in the major,” as stated for Options I and II. Motion was made to approve proposal. Motion passed.

Proposed modification to MS option III in Chemical Engineering

Proposal is to reduce total credit hour requirement from 36 to 30, and to keep graduate-only course requirements at 18 hours. Motion was made to approve proposal. Motion passed.

Proposed modification to MS options II, III in Computer Science

Proposal is to reduce total credit hour requirement from 36 to 30. All other requirements for Option II and II will not change. Motion was made to approve proposal. Motion passed.

Proposed MS-PhD dual degree program in Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics

Dean Carr explained that this proposal addresses the Graduate College policy that prohibits a student to be “simultaneously matriculated” in two degree programs without permission of the graduate committees of both programs and the Dean for Graduate Studies. When both programs are in the same department (and the department wishes to grant a master’s degree to doctoral students “along the way”), it seems overly bureaucratic to seek approval for each student on a case-by-case basis. Dean Carr is asking the Graduate Council to consider a blanket approval for these situations to avoid having to seek approve from the department and the Dean on a case-by-case basis. Motion was made to approve. Motion passed.

Proposed MS-PhD dual degree program in Physics and Astronomy

The proposal addresses the same situation as with the Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics program. Motion was made to approve. Motion passed.

Proposed certificate (new) in Financial Analytics

Several points need clarification. First, the proposal should have a clarifying statement that differentiates this certification from Business Analytics. The concern was raised because the course selection from each certificate share many of the same courses. Second, is “Financial Analytics” the best title in view of the courses? While the answer may be yes, the Council is asking the department to consider whether it is accurate and appropriate. Third, the admission criteria includes “Undergraduate Calculus and Statistics required.” The proposal should include a UNL course equivalent for calculus and statistics (as examples) so the knowledge expectations for each area is more clear. Motion was made to table, pending revisions. Motion passed.

Proposed certificate (modification) in Construction Engineering and Management

The program is requesting two changes. The first is to remove the two required general ENGR management courses. This will allow students to select from a more focused list of CNST and CONE courses. The second change is to reduce the certificate total credit hours from 15 to 12. Motion was made to approve the modifications. Motion passed.

Proposed MS specialization in Hospitality Management

Dean Carr explained that the hospitality program, which is housed in the Department of Nutrition and Health Sciences, has struggled with attracting master’s level students because the only MS degree major in the department is “Nutrition and Health Sciences.” Students don’t know that Hospitality Management is available at the master’s level. Creating a Hospitality Management specialization within the existing degree/major will help with marketing and recruiting. Motion was made to approve. Motion passed.

Proposed PhD specialization in Supply Chain Management and Analytics

Several points need clarification. First, the table in Appendix 1 is confusing. It does not seem to match up with the table on page 3 of the proposal. Perhaps spelling out the SCMA courses, ECON courses, and STAT course in Appendix 1 would be helpful. Second, the “variable credit” for courses needs a thorough explanation. If variable credit, then how can “Methods and elective coursework” be fixed at 15 credit hours? Third, why so many required courses simply to define a specialization? The only requirement for a specialization is to identify “at least 9 credit hours.” The proposal should have a rationale for including so many courses. Fourth, the proposal should include a letter of support from the Statistics department. Motion was made to table, pending revisions. Motion passed.

New course proposals

Moved to the November meeting due to lack of time.

Graduate Student Assembly Report

No major announcements from GSA. Minor bylaw revisions. New Communications committee.

Announcements

None.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05

Respectively submitted by Kelsey Sims