

**Graduate Council Meeting
Monday, January 29, 2024**

Council Members Present: Glen Schmidt, Tabitha Benney, Laura Kessler, Janet Lindsley, Katherine Beals, Brijes Misra, Donna Ziegenfuss, Ramesh Goel, Kuberan Balagurunathan, José Gutiérrez, Misty Smith, Patrick Panos

Ex Officio Members Present: Darryl Butt, Helene Shugart, Paula Spencer, Karen Paisley, Caroline Bitter

Excused members: Aaron Kaplan, Winston Kyan, and Paula Meek

Student Representative Present: Andry Joseph

Welcome

Darryl Butt, Graduate School Dean, welcomed everyone

Proposal:

Program Discontinuation – Biology Teaching MS

Presenter: David Goldenberg, School of Biological Sciences

Discussion took place about:

- The program was never implemented, no students have ever completed, but it is still listed in catalog
- Discontinuation won't affect the undergraduate biology teaching programs
- There are no negative effects to discontinue program
- The discontinued program is not related to the MSSST program

Motion to approve: Patrick Panos

Second: Donna Ziegenfuss

Vote: Yes – 11, No – 0

Abstain: 0

Action: Move proposal forward to the Academic Senate.

Proposal:

New Program –Resilient Energy Certificate:

Presenter: Milind Deo, Department of Chemical Engineering

Discussion took place about:

- How students are assessed on outcomes
- Adjustments in proposal in response to Graduate Council recommendations
 - Alignment of outcomes to ABET outcomes
 - Modification of admissions statement
 - More consistent use of “certificate” in descriptions
 - Additional letters of support from COS, CSBS, VPR and UCL
 - Clarified Department of Chemical Engineering is awarding the certificate
 - Removed advertisements from website

Motion to approve: Tabitha Benney

Second: Misty Smith

Vote: Yes – 11, No – 0

Abstain: 1

Action: Move proposal forward to the Academic Senate.

Proposal:

CMES & COS Merger –Unit Transfer and New Charter

Presenters – Dean Peter Trapa and Cassie Slattery, College of Science

Discussion took place about:

- Academic Senate request for governance charter
- Unique structure of college residing in a college – no existing policy
- Continuation of the College of Mines and Earth Sciences is mandated by the Utah State Constitution
- Benefits of merger
- Academic synergies between the two colleges
- High level of support of merger
- Concerns about equitable returned overhead for all units

Motion to approve: Glen Schmidt

Second: Patrick Panos

Vote: Yes – 12, No – 0

Abstain: 0

Action: Share with proposers the concern about ensuring equitable returned overhead. Move proposal forward to the Academic Senate.

Proposal:

New Degree Program: Combined English Teaching B.A. with Secondary Licensure in English Language Arts and M.Ed. in Educational Psychology

Presenters: Lauren Liang and Colli Lucas, Department of Educational Psychology

Discussion took place about:

- Natural connection of two programs – common at other universities
- No courses will be lost
- Increased salary opportunity in Utah schools for graduates with a master's degree
- Inclusion of additional training in much-needed science of reading
- Classification of dual degree programs
- Ongoing discussions with working group that is investigating policies and procedures for implementing
- Implications of financial aid eligibility for undergraduate vs. graduate student status
- State of Utah policies that could affect 4+1 programs

Motion to approve: Ramesh Goel

Second: Misty Smith

Vote: Yes – 12, No – 0

Abstain: 0

Actions: Verify course plan includes proper number of credits. Recommend ongoing engagement with dual degree working group. Move proposal forward to the Academic Senate, pending verification of correct number of credits.

Proposal:

New Certificate Program – Advanced General Dentistry in Endodontics Certificate

Presenters: Jaron Smith, Danielle Wingrove and Tayler Hughes, School of Dentistry

Discussion took place about:

- Success of other certificate programs (15 approved)
- Increased opportunities upon graduation for students completing a certificate while completing the DDS program
- Benefits to Medicaid patients seeking care at the University Dental Clinic

Motion to approve: Janet Lindsley

Second: José Gutiérrez

Vote: Yes – 9, No – 0

Abstain: 1

Action: Move proposal forward to the Academic Senate.

Discussion:

Potential revisions to review process

Presenter: Helene Shugart, Graduate School Associate Dean

Discussion took place about:

- Ongoing socialization of ideas with CAD and USHE
- Change in procedures, not policy
- Potential vote on revisions at next meeting
- Concerns about implications for programs where only undergraduate or only graduate programs are accredited, if accreditation is accepted in lieu of program review
- Concerns about losing independent perspective of external reviewers if there is a single review committee
- Opportunity for revisions to provide better focus on student learning outcome assessment
- Benefits of greater participation from Undergraduate Council

Information Items:

No concerns were expressed with information items:

- English proficiency requirement adjustment in application review process
- Creation of Graduate Admissions Committee webpage
- Proposal to Consolidate and Retire Policies 6-200--6-224
 - Clarified that 6-204 to 6-223 are out-of-date and no longer needed.
 - Specific degree requirements are under the purview of individual departments
 - Policies 6-200 to 6-203 and 6-224, would be consolidated and revised