

Graduate Council Meeting
Monday, November 27, 2023

Council Members Present: Tabitha Benney, Aaron Kaplan, Laura Kessler, Janet Lindsley, Katherine Beals, Brijes Misra, Donna Ziegenfuss, Kent Golic, Jim Agutter, Ramesh Goel, Kuberan Balagurunathan

Ex Officio Members Present: Darryl Butt, Helene Shugart, Mary Anne Berzins, Paula Spencer, Karen Paisley

Excused members: Glen Schmidt, Jose Gutierrez, Misty Smith, Patrick Panos, Winston Kyan, Paula Meek, Debbie Adebunmi and Adam Kotter (student representatives)

Student Representative Present: Andry Joseph

Welcome

Darryl Butt, Graduate School Dean, welcomed everyone

Proposal: To calculate undergraduate GPA across all undergraduate coursework rather than limiting it to coursework toward the completed Bachelor's degree.

Presenter: Brittany Baker-Brousseau, Senior Associate Director, Admissions

Discussion took place about:

- How "shadow" – combined undergraduate/graduate courses - will be accounted for in transcript evaluation
- How repeated courses are accounted for in transcript evaluation
- Why change is needed:
 - Large number of applicants with undergraduate coursework from more than one institution
 - Need to account for different international grading scales
 - Accommodation for students with a WGU transcript that doesn't use letter grades
 - More accurate representation of student undergraduate-level coursework
- This proposal is a modification of current procedures, not a change in policy.
- Council members would like to see this again in the spring following its implementation this academic year cycle.

Motion to approve procedure: Tabitha Benney

Second: Laura Kessler

Vote: Yes – 11, No – 0

Abstain: 0

Action: Invite Brittany to another Graduate Council meeting in the spring to report on the results of the implementation.

Proposal:

New Program - Resilient Energy Certificate

Presenter: Milind Deo, Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering and Alan Walker, EGI Operations Manager

Discussion took place about:

- Opportunities and benefits for students with this credential
- Need for better learning outcomes rather than a list of topics as outcomes
- How students are assessed by external stakeholders
- Integration and interaction of non-matriculated students with graduate students
- Questions of what entity is providing credential
- Concern that the program is being advertised without approval
- Transferability of non-credited work to credited courses.
- Specificity of admission requirements

The following recommendations were discussed:

- Outcomes need to be revised. They are listed as topics, but they should state what students will be able to do and should be measurable. They could tie the outcomes to the program's CIP Code definition.
- They need to provide more details for the program's admission requirements. The admission statement misses some departments from which students could be admitted.
- There needs to be a list of prerequisites and/or skills that are required for admission.
- There is unauthorized advertising for this program that alternately refers to the program as an initiative, a certification, program, certificate – this is confusing. "Certificate" should be used exclusively and consistently.
- Need letters of support from U Connected Learning, the College of Science and the College of Social and Behavioral Science.
- Confusion about the entity awarding credit and granting the certificate – is it a center or a department?

Action: The Council agreed to table this proposal for reconsideration after recommendations have been addressed.

Proposal:

New Emphasis to Existing Degree – MS in Nursing with emphasis in Nursing Leadership

Presenters: Gillian Tufts, Associate Professor, College of Nursing and Teresa Garrett, Associate Professor, College of Nursing

Discussion took place about:

- Opportunities available to graduates
- Logistics of an online residency - who is evaluating competencies
- Terminology of leadership versus "management"
- Scalability of program

- Need for more clarity on title of program: emphasis/track and new degree versus adding to existing degree
- Confusion about which requirements are specific to the leadership emphasis and which are for the MS in Nursing degree in general

The following recommendation was discussed:

- Proposal must be updated to ensure clarity of emphasis-specific features; and proper terminology should be used consistently used: “MS in Nursing with Emphasis in Nursing Leadership.”

Motion to approve (with condition): Jim Agutter

Second: Tabitha Benney

Vote: Yes – 11, No – 0

Abstain: 0

Action: Conditionally approve, pending the following revision to the proposal: The proposal must be revised to clarify that this is a proposal to add an emphasis to an existing degree.

Proposal:

New Program – B.A./B.S. in Educational Psychology combined with MED

Presenters – Julia Hood, Assistant Professor, Educational Psychology and Kirsten Butcher, Professor, Educational Psychology

Discussion took place about:

- Current student demand for program
- Logistics of transition between undergraduate and graduate status
- Financial aid ramifications for undergraduate students being enrolled in graduate courses
- Need for master’s level Instructional Design and Educational Technology (IDET) graduates
- Available resources for advising
- Availability of IDET programs in St. George
- The need for a degree map to show that students meet requirements to qualify for financial aid as they transition from undergraduate to graduate student status.

Motion to approve: Jim Agutter

Second: Tabitha Benney

Vote: Yes – 11, No – 0

Abstain: 0

Action: Move proposal forward to the Academic Senate with an advisement to the department that they carefully examine the financial aid ramifications for students in the 4th year of the program.

Proposal:

New Unit – Division of Public Affairs

Presenters: David Carter, Director, Programs of Public Affairs and Claudio Holzner, Chair of Political Science Department

Discussion took place about:

- Rationale for creation of unit, including coming into alignment with existence of units at peer institutions
- Ramifications for tenure-line faculty in new unit
- Appropriateness of letters of support
- Adequacy of staff resources
- Widespread support of proposal from affected faculty
- Relevance of proposal in light of recommendation from recent seven-year review of the Political Science Department

Motion to approve: Laura Kessler

Second: Janet Lindsley

Vote: Yes – 11, No – 0

Abstain: 0

Action: Move proposal forward to the Academic Senate.

Seven Year Review: Department of Mathematics

Presentation by Ad Hoc Committee Chair: Aaron Kaplan

Discussion took place about:

- Diversity of the department relative to the field of mathematics as a whole
- Heavy service responsibilities of department
- Workload inequities and reports of unaddressed sources of dissatisfaction among faculty

A change in wording was suggested for recommendation #1. Add clause to last sentence that the hiring plan should be “consistent with the need to diversify the department.”

Motion to approve report: Laura Kessler

Second: Tabitha Benney

Vote: Yes – 11, No – 0

Abstain: 0

Action: Revise wording to recommendation #1 and move report forward to the Academic Senate.