

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 28, 2024, 3:00 pm
3105 Gardner Commons

Council Members Present: Paul Stout, Janet Lindsley, Donna Ziegenfuss, Glen Schmidt, David Symons, Misty Smith, José Gutiérrez, Codrina Rada, Kent Golic, Jay Jordan, James Agutter, Brijes Mishra, Darryl Butt, Kuberan Balagurunathan, Ramesh Goel

Ex Officio Members Present: Katrina Green, Anthony Jones, Erin Mason

Excused members: Robert Keiter, Helene Shugart, Karen Paisley, Julie Valentine

Graduate School Staff Present: Paula Spencer, Mary Anne Berzins

Welcome: Darryl Butt, Graduate School Dean

Proposal: Major revisions to MS in Pharmacology & Toxicology Program (follow-up)

Presenters: Farzana Alam and Misty Smith, Pharmacology & Toxicology

Discussion took place about:

- Updated statistics in the proposal
- Course objectives mapped to program outcomes
- Types of assessments used

Council deliberation:

- Addendum to the proposal meets the Council request for a curriculum map

Motion: James Agutter – approve the proposal

Second: Donna Ziegenfuss

Vote: 11-yes, 0-no, 1-abstain

Action: Approve the proposal

Proposal: New Biomedical Engineering programs - Neural Engineering M.S., Neural Engineering Ph.D., Neurotechnology Graduate Certificate

Presenters: Chuck Dorval and Rick Rabbitt, Biomedical Engineering

Discussion took place about:

- Enrollment numbers in Neural Engineering courses already being taught in other programs and need for a stand-alone program
- Industry growth in this field
- Nationally competitive programs
- Local employment opportunities

The following recommendations were discussed:

- Request a letter of support from Dean of Engineering, Charles Musgrave
- Request a table that compares the three programs, including courses and learning outcomes
- Proposals should include a curriculum map with specific course outcomes mapped to program level outcomes.
- The anticipated sources of funding need to be outlined, including who is responsible if there is a loss of funding.
- Request details on program outcomes and how they are assessed for the Ph.D. program beyond what is already outlined in the M.S. program.
- Suggestion to address ethics in the programs

Motion: Ramesh Goel – Conditionally approve M.S. and Certificate upon receipt of:

1. Letter of support from Dean Musgrave
2. Program comparison table
3. Curriculum maps

Reconsider approval of Ph.D. program after the proposal includes the above three items and addresses:

1. Clarification on funding
2. Ph.D. program assessment and outcomes

Second: Misty Smith

Vote to conditionally approve M.S. & Certificate: 14-yes, 0-no, 0-abstain

Vote to require resubmission for the Ph.D.: - 14-yes, 0-no, 0-abstain

Action: Reroute Coursedog proposals back to authors for revision.

7-Year Review: School of Biological Sciences

Presentation by Ad Hoc Committee Chair: Ramesh Goel

Discussion took place about:

- Opportunities for graduate students to TA
- Heavy use of undergraduate learning assistants
- Success in addressing past faculty issues

Motion to ratify report: Jay Jordan

Second: Misty Smith

Vote: 13-yes, 0-no, 1-abstain

Proposal: New Program: Financial Planning and Counseling Online Master's

Presenter: Su Hyun Shin, Family & Consumer Studies

Discussion took place about:

- Growth potential in industry
- Competitive programs, including this program's unique focus on financial *counseling*.
- Support from University Connected Learning
- Rationale for requiring a bachelor's degree for admission

The following recommendations were discussed:

- Proposal needs to address how applicants will demonstrate required competencies prior to being admitted into the program.
- Request a curriculum map with specific course outcomes mapped to program level outcomes.
- Proposal should address rationale for pursuing the M.S. degree rather than a bachelor's degree.
- Request details on how outcomes are assessed.
- Proposal needs more clarity on the degree path for students who have already completed certain courses and how appropriate alternate courses are determined.
- Resolve confusion about differential tuition considerations.

Motion: Kuberan Balagurunathan – Request the proposal return for reconsideration after the following issues are addressed (as detailed above):

1. Competencies for admissions
2. Curriculum map
3. Rationale for program
4. Outcomes assessment
5. Degree path
6. Program costs

Second: James Agutter

Vote to reconsider proposal: 13-yes, 0-no, 0-abstain

Action: Reroute Coursedog proposal back to author for revision.