



Date: Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Location: WebEx

Subject: Executive Committee (EC) of The Graduate School meeting minutes

Attendees: Judy Brown, Maria-Luz Fernandez, Mitch Green, Kent Holsinger (*Ex Officio, Chair*), Elizabeth Holzer, Barbara Kream (*Ex Officio*), Charles Mahoney, Etan Markus, Betsy McCoach, Barbara Parziale (*Ex Officio – Secretary*), Lynn Puddington, Kathy Segerson (*Ex Officio*), and Penny Vlahos.

Guests: Kylene Perras, Ron Squibbs, Kevin (Wai Hong) Lo, Rachel Gabriel

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1. Agenda item number one (1) – Call to order. The regular meeting of the Executive Committee for September 16, 2020 was called to order at 3:02 pm.
2. Agenda item number two (2) – Presented for consideration and voting – Approval of the minutes. The minutes of the April 15, 2020 meeting of the Executive Committee were introduced. There was a motion offered to accept the minutes, which was seconded, and the motion was adopted in favor by all members present. **Agenda item number two (2) was passed without dissent.**
3. Announcements were held until the Dean’s report below.
4. Agenda item number four (4) – Presented for consideration and voting – *Change an existing Degree or Certificate Program – Master’s of Engineering*. This proposal was a request to add a concentration in Chemical Engineering. Following a brief discussion a motion was made and seconded to approve the request. **Agenda item number four (4) was passed unanimously with modifications made to the catalog language.**
5. Agenda item number five (5) - Presented for consideration and voting – *Revise an existing course - MCB 5884: MCB Research in Progress*. This proposal is to switch to S/U grading for up to a max of three credits. After a brief review of the request a motion was made to accept the change which was seconded. **Agenda item number five (5) was approved.**
6. Agenda item number six (6) – Presented for consideration and voting - *Revise Existing Course MCB 5484 – Current Topics in Genetics and Genomics*. This proposal is also requesting to switch to S/U grading for up to a max of three credits. After a brief review of the request a motion was made to accept the change which was seconded. **Agenda item number six (6) was approved.**
7. Agenda item number seven (7) – Presented for consideration and voting – *Revise an existing course MCB 5984 – MCB Invited Seminar*. This is another proposal requesting to switch to S/U

grading for up to a max of three credits. A brief discussion followed after which a motion was made and seconded to accept the change. **Agenda item number seven (7) was approved.**

8. Agenda item number eight (8) – Presented for consideration and voting – *Add a Course PHRX 5260 – P4 Professional Development 1*. This course is a zero credit, S/U graded course to provide students with review materials for licensure exams. It was determined that this course does not need to be reviewed by the Executive Committee but that the committee will approve it so it can continue through the approval process. **Agenda item number eight (8) was approved.**
9. Agenda item number nine (9) – Presented for consideration and voting – *Add a Course PHRX 5265 – P4 Professional Development 2*. This course is also a zero credit, S/U graded course to provide students with review materials for licensure exams. It was determined by the committee that this course does not need to be reviewed by the Executive Committee but that the committee will approve it so it can continue through the approval process. **Agenda item number nine (9) was approved.**
10. Agenda item number ten (10) – Presented for consideration and voting – *Add a new Certificate Program – Certificate in Jazz Studies*. During the presentation of this request it was determined that this is actually a change to an existing program to add Jazz to the Music Performance Certificate. There was a motion made, which was seconded, to approve the proposal in concept. However, the initiator must submit a new proposal indicating that this is a change to an existing program rather than the creation of a new program. The new proposal does not need to be re-reviewed by the EC, but can be directly approved once resubmitted. **Agenda item number ten (10) was conditionally approved.**
11. Agenda item number eleven (11) – Presented for consideration and voting – *Add a new Degree Program – Master of Science (MS) in Regenerative Engineering and Convergence*. This proposal for a new degree program brought with it many questions from the Executive Committee, the most prominent being the use of the word “convergence.” After a great deal of discussion it was determined that the committee felt that this proposal was not ready to be approved at this time and would need to be revised and resubmitted. **Agenda item number eleven (11) was denied unanimously.**
12. Agenda item number twelve (12) – Presented for consideration and voting – *Change an existing Certificate or Degree Program - 6<sup>th</sup> Year Diploma (EDCI) with concentration in Reading; Master’s Degree (EDCI) with a concentration in reading*. These are two programs with the same requirements that the NEAG School of Education would like to offer at our satellite campuses. After a discussion of the request a motion was made, which was seconded, to approve the academic merit of the request, with an understanding that full approval will be granted once some questions regarding the billing/fee structure are satisfactorily resolved. **Agenda item number twelve (12) was conditionally approved.**
13. Agenda item number thirteen (13) – Presented for consideration and voting – *Change an existing Degree or Certificate Program – Leadership and Public Management*. The program would like to offer this certificate at the Hartford campus. After a very brief discussion a motion

was made, which was seconded, to approve the request. **Agenda item number thirteen (13) was approved.**

14. Agenda item number fourteen (14) – Dean’s report and discussion.
  - a. As anticipated, there has been a slight decline in enrollments for the current academic year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
  - b. There have been several complaints by students that research courses Grad 6950 and Grad 5950 are not considered off campus courses and thus subject to reduced fees since the students are not technically on campus due to the Corona virus. Provost Lejeune has denied action on the complaint request for a change because these courses have always been designated as “in person” courses since international students need to be on campus for Visa purposes.
  - c. There was a reverse Town Hall held by graduate students who felt unsupported with counseling and mental health issues stemming from the pandemic.
  - d. Several departments have decided to no longer require the GRE, most recently the Philosophy program, Marine Sciences and EEB.
  
15. Agenda item number fifteen (15) – New business and updates.
  - a. The following resolution was passed by e-mail ballot and sent out to Dean’s following the vote:
    - i. The Graduate School Executive Committee recognizes the extraordinary challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and expresses its gratitude and appreciation to the University community for their perseverance under difficult circumstances. The Executive Committee also recognizes that disruptions associated with the pandemic may lengthen the time to degree for some currently enrolled graduate students beyond the time for which departments normally provide assistantships. The Executive Committee encourages deans and department heads to consider temporarily extending the usual time limits on assistantship support.
  
16. There was a motion offered for adjournment which was seconded and the motion was adopted in favor by all members present. The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 pm.
  
17. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for **October 21, 2020 on Webex.**