



Date: Wednesday, January 18th, 2023, from 3:00pm-5:00pm

Location: [WebEx Conference](#)

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

Attendees: Mary Bernstein (*Ex-Officio*), Kristin Bott, Jack Corcoran (*Ex-Officio*, *Recording Secretary*), David Embrick, Mitchell Green, Kent Holsinger (*Ex-Officio*, *Chair*), Barbara Kream (*Ex-Officio*), Charles Mahoney, Etan Markus, D. Betsy McCoach, Judith Thorpe

Absent: Mary Anne Amalaradjou, Rosa Raudales

Guests: Dorothea Anagnostopoulos, Talia Bar, Eric Brunner, Ming-Hui Chen, Zhiyi Chi, Jose Cruz, Katerina Gonzalez Seligmann, Michael Hren, Matthew B. Jané, Blair Johnson, Chihwa (Duke) Kao, Min Seong Kim, Redona Methasani, Sara Renzulli, Bart Roccoberon, Daniela Weiser

1. The meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 3:00 p.m.
2. Presentation and vote for past meeting minutes, Nov. 9th, 2022: The minutes from this EC meeting were approved.
3. There are no new announcements.
4. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program (22-CHI-CSDGLM) MS in Biostatistics*
 - a. Sponsoring Department: Statistics
 - b. Sponsoring School/College: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
 - c. Presenter: Zhiyi Chi

Zhiyi Chi from the Department of Statistics discussed a new change to the MS in Biostatistics. Currently, in order to switch into Ph.D. program, a student must clear a Master's Examination, followed by a Ph.D. Qualifying Examination. The proposed modification states a student may now only have to pass the Ph.D. Qualifying Examination if they desire to switch. The purpose of this change is to appeal to a wider demographic of students, make the overall program more attractive to candidates, and

positively aid the student experience in the event they decide to further their education within the program.

There were no questions presented. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposal, with abstentions from Charles Mahoney and Etan Markus.

5. Presented for approval – Integrative Studies Ph.D. Application: Matthew B. Jané

The Executive Committee serves as the admissions body for the Ph.D. in Integrative Studies, which is a course of study that isn't defined in an existing field of study here at UConn. Requirements to pursue this path are more stringent and rigorous, including a 3.5 GPA, and co-sponsorship from two faculty members in different fields.

This Integrative Studies Ph.D. Application is titled, "Meta-Analysis and Psychometric Methods" for Ph.D. candidate Matthew B. Jané. Via a PowerPoint presentation, Jané presented a sample study describing both the observed and true correlations in which the research of his desired dissertation would be based upon. Using both his presentation and support from his advisor, Blair Johnson, Jané conveys that the research he wants to pursue doesn't fit solely into the Departments of Psychological Sciences, Educational Psychology, or Statistics, but heavily draws from and relies on content and studies within each.

There were a few questions from members of the Executive Committee. Firstly, Jané cleared up and went into more detail about his sample study with prompting from Mitchell Green, D. Betsy McCoach, and Kent Holsinger, all of whom asked him to elaborate on the data he presented, its reliability across studies, and how it could be applied to a non-simulated study. Secondly, Holsinger pointed out that based on his presentation, Jané's proposal seemed heavily statistics based, with some synthesis of psychological sciences, and wanted more explanation as to how it directly combines these two fields. Jané stated that he will be using data sets that are rooted in psychological principles but applying statistics to them. McCoach stated that Jané should consider changing the name of his proposal to simply "Quantitative Psychology," as it would more appropriately encompass his studies under a broader term and aid him in his future career aspirations in adjacent fields. Johnson agreed that this would be an appropriate amendment if the proposal is approved otherwise.

The Executive Committee voted to unanimously approve the proposal upon the agreement of Matthew B. Jané to change the name of his Integrative Studies Ph.D. to "Quantitative Psychology."

6. Presented for consideration and voting – *Creation of a New Course "Teaching Economics"* (CAR ID: 22-15525) Ph.D. in Economics

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| a. Sponsoring Department: | Economics |
| b. Sponsoring School/College: | College of Liberal Arts and Sciences |
| c. Presenter: | Talia Bar |

Talia Bar from the Department of Economics presented the creation of a new course that will enhance and support the teaching skills of graduate students. Since the department relies heavily on the support of their graduate students to serve as instructors for undergraduate courses and get numerous requests for their students to teach outside of

the university, they believe this course will help improve their teaching skills and aid their potential future careers as economics professors. This course would be required to be taken upon a student's first time as an instructor, and can be repeated upon further teaching assignments. It will be graded on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis.

Etan Markus asked for clarification on the variable credit element. Bar stated it would be a discussion between the student and their faculty mentor. The Executive Committee voted unanimously to approve the proposal.

7. Presented for consideration and voting – *Creation of a New Course “Field Study Internship” (CAR ID: 22-16805) MS in Business Analytics and Project Management + MS in Financial Technology*
 - a. Sponsoring Department: Operations and Information Systems
 - b. Sponsoring School/College: School of Business
 - c. Presenter: Jose Cruz

Jose Cruz from the School of Business presented the extension of the field study internship to provide students with more practical training in the field. This request is a revision of the current course, and has already been approved by the School of Business, and will be graded on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis.

There were no questions presented. Upon further communication from Kent Holsinger and Mary Bernstein, the Executive Committee voted unanimously to approve the proposal.

8. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program (22-KING-FA&J2T) Online and Part-time MBA Programs*
 - a. Sponsoring School/College: School of Business
 - b. Presenters: Jose Cruz
Redona Methasani

Jose Cruz and Redona Methasani, both from the School of Business, proposed the change in the current MBA program, and reducing the credit load from 57 credits to 42 credits. After looking at both local and online competitors, the current MBA program requires, on average, 12 more credits than other programs, with three additional core courses. Additionally, enrollment numbers have significantly declined in the past four years, due in-part to more efficient programs nearby. The new proposal states that instead of 12 core courses, there will now only be nine. Furthermore, it will now only take nine credits to attain a concentration, and concentrations with low enrollment numbers will be eliminated.

Mitchell Green asked how the School of Business is aware of these statistics regarding the decrease in enrollment based on competitor's programs, and not due to other factors. Cruz stated that they are drawing upon feedback that has come directly from students. Barbara Kream asked how this change will affect students in dual-degree programs. Cruz said that this is still to be evaluated by the program to see how many current students will be impacted by this change. Etan Markus questions why the 15 credits that are no longer needed are insignificant now, in comparison to the past.

Methasani states that a critical analysis was conducted by the program, and they found that some courses overlap and/or are not necessary for the current market.

A motion to approve was made by Mitchell Green and seconded by D. Betsy McCoach. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposal, with an abstention from Etan Markus.

9. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program (22-SELI-ULC6LP)* MA in International Studies with a Concentration in Latino and Latin American Studies

- a. Sponsoring Department: El Instituto
- b. Sponsoring School/College: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- c. Presenter: Katerina Gonzalez Seligmann

Katerina Gonzalez Seligmann from El Instituto presented on the change in the MA in International Studies. This degree is now defunct, and the proposed change is for the new program to be titled, “MA in Latino and Latin American Studies.” Despite the change in name, Gonzalez Seligmann states that the program is essentially the same as the prior degree, and that no other aspect will be shifting regarding the courses or content.

There were no questions presented. The Executive Committee voted unanimously to approve the proposal.

10. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program (22-SELI-3TACHM)* Business Administration (MBA) / MA in International Studies

- a. Sponsoring Department: El Instituto
- b. Sponsoring School/College: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
School of Business
- c. Presenters: Katerina Gonzalez Seligmann
Jose Cruz

Both Katerina Gonzalez Seligmann and Jose Cruz presented on the change to the MBA and MA in International Studies dual degree. Due to the actions of the prior item, there must be an adjustment made to the dual degree. With the MA in International Studies designation now obsolete, there are not any elective credits to be shared between the two degrees. Additionally, there is a slight change of language in the catalog to reflect this.

Mitchell Green questioned the availability of courses on different campuses. Cruz says that MBA courses will have to be taken in other places other than the Storrs campus, but they can be taken at a mixture of regional campuses, as well as in an online modality. The Executive Committee voted unanimously to approve the proposal.

11. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program (22-BONO-E6KB1F)* MS in Quantitative Economics

- a. Sponsoring Department: Economics
- b. Sponsoring School/College: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- c. Presenters: Chihwa (Duke) Kao

Min Seong Kim

Chihwa (Duke) Kao and Min Seong Kim of the Department of Economics propose the addition of the MS in Quantitative Economics program at the Stamford campus. There will be no change to the overall program requirements, aside from the extra focus on encouraging a “4+1” undergraduate program, and promoting the new Stamford campus program as an ideal location for internship and potential careers in the New York City metropolitan area.

There were no questions presented. The Executive Committee voted unanimously to approve the proposal.

12. Presented for consideration and voting – *Add/Create new degree or certificate program (22-RE NZ-N4W5IR) Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) Certificate*
- a. Sponsoring Department: Educational Psychology
 - b. Sponsoring School/College: Neag School of Education
 - c. Presenter: Sara Renzulli

Sara Renzulli from the Department of Educational Psychology presented the addition of a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) graduate certificate. Intended to bridge the gap between school counseling and an LPC, this new program would be designed to accommodate working professionals and current graduate students, containing completely online and asynchronous classes, with an in-person internship. This LPC certification will cover five different elements of counseling that aren't covered in UConn's school counseling program. This certificate program would be completed strictly during the summer and can range from two to six summers total. With internship sites already coordinated in collaboration with both Hartford Healthcare and UConn Health and approval from the Department of Public Health, this certificate would help fill a massive lack in LPC positions across the state and allow these certified professionals to charge insurance and serve a wider community.

Charles Mahoney asked for clarification on how these missing elements in the school counseling program would be explicitly addressed in the new LPC certificate. Renzulli states that there is an entire course dedicated to each one. Mitchell Green questioned why current school counselors would need this. Renzulli said that she has received numerous requests from recent graduates and currently employed school counselors alike interested in a certification like this, as it would allow them to broaden their career horizons, bump them into a higher pay grade, and set up private practices in the future. Following these questions, Renzulli additionally added that the marketing of this certificate would be towards school counselors and those who have completed an equivalent, accredited program. If an applicant is missing a significant number of prerequisites, they will not be able to be enrolled in this certificate.

The Executive Committee collectively noted a flaw in the current course catalog regarding the internship course. When cross-referencing information in the GPAR, Renzulli's presentation, and the course catalog, there was an inconsistency found in the number of credits the proposed internship course could be taken for. Mary Bernstein planned to follow up on this, and a further decision will be made once there is explicit clarification on the credit amount.

13. Presented for consideration and voting – *Add/Create new degree or certificate program (22-HREN-7ZDU8H) Environmental Earth Sciences*
- a. Sponsoring Department: Geosciences
 - b. Sponsoring School/College: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
 - c. Presenter: Michael Hren

Michael Hren from the Department of Geosciences presented the new Environmental Earth Sciences “4+1” program, which will give students an accelerated pathway to obtain an MS. With themes and content focused on earth, water, and the environment, as well as data acquisition and analysis in the geoscience field, this program will prepare students for careers in environmental consulting and as a licensed environmentalist. With Connecticut having the largest number of employed geologists in the northeast, adding this program would help support the demand for more, and would be the first of its kind in the state.

Etan Markus asked for clarification on whether this program would be targeted specifically towards current students only, or if people outside the university would be able to partake. Hren states that the program will be open to anyone, as an MS in this field is an important step towards attaining success in the profession. Charles Mahoney asked if there are similar programs in the northeast, and if the program is specifically for students who plan to work in environmental science in Connecticut only. Hren clarified that there are other nearby programs in neighboring states, and that students would be able to attain positions in other states if desired. The Executive Committee voted unanimously to approve the proposal.

14. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program (22-WEIS-BKHXJ6) Puppet Arts*
- a. Sponsoring Department: Dramatic Arts
 - b. Sponsoring School/College: School of Fine Arts
 - c. Presenter: Bart Roccoberon Jr.

Bart Roccoberon Jr. from the Department of Dramatic Arts proposed a name change, from an MA in Puppetry to an MA in Puppet Arts. Due to obstacles within the department, this name change has been in the works for many years. It is believed that the name Puppet Arts incorporates the art form of puppetry more accurately and is universally accepted and respected around the world.

There were no questions presented. The Executive Committee voted unanimously to approve the proposal.

15. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program (22-GUAR-NCRCR9) Public Administration MPA*
- a. Sponsoring Department: Public Policy – Survey Research
 - b. Sponsoring School/College: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
 - c. Presenter: Eric Brunner

16. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program (22-GUAR-2RDXYU) Public Policy MPP*
- a. Sponsoring Department: Public Policy – Survey Research
 - b. Sponsoring School/College: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
 - c. Presenter: Eric Brunner

Note: The above GPAR requests (15 & 16) were jointly presented for consideration and voting.

Eric Brunner from the Department of Public Policy proposed the decrease in credit amount in the program from 43 credits, down to 42 credits. This change stems from the change of a one-credit capstone course that was tied to accreditation being removed in favor of a zero-credit professional development course. This course would be beneficial for students to gain experience in the specific field they are looking to begin their career in.

Multiple members of the Executive Committee questioned what would incentivize students to take a zero-credit course and complete the work for it. It was mentioned that there would be no consequence for not completing any of the work for the course. The Executive Committee asked for clarification regarding the zero-credit course and that Public Policy consider having the portfolio as part of their graduate requirements. Assoc. Dean Bernstein will follow up.

17. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program (23-HOLS-SLX60T) MS in Data Science*
- a. Sponsoring Department: Data Science
 - b. Sponsoring School/College: The Graduate School
CAHNR
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Neag School of Education
School of Business
School of Engineering
 - c. Presenter: Kent Holsinger

Kent Holsinger presented the MS in Data Science program adjustment to also offer the program online. The program itself remains unchanged and was always intended to be available online. Online delivery of this degree is expected to launch this fall.

There were no questions presented. The Executive Committee voted unanimously to approve the proposal.

18. Discussion Items:
- a. Etan Markus discusses complaints from students regarding fee raises that were recently implemented. Kent Holsinger is working with Anne D’Alleva and the Graduate Student Senate to set up a town hall for graduate students to discuss these changes, amongst other things.

19. The meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 5:28 p.m. The next meeting is currently scheduled for February 15th, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.