



Date: Wednesday, March 8th, 2023, from 3:00pm-5:00pm

Location: [WebEx Conference](#)

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

Attendees: Mary Bernstein (*Ex-Officio*), 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, Kristin Bott, Rosa Raudales

Guests: Eric Brunner, Ariana Codr, Christine Dileone, Kathryn Libal, Avinoam Patt, Linda Pescatello

1. The meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 3:02 p.m.
2. Presentation and vote for past meeting minutes, Feb. 15th, 2023: The minutes from this EC meeting were approved unanimously.
3. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program (GPAR 23-GUAR-IGSW3N) Master of Public Administration Fellows Track*
 - a. Sponsoring Department: Public Policy
 - b. Sponsoring School/College: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
 - c. Presenter: Eric Brunner

Eric Brunner from the Public Policy department presented on the addition of the Master of Public Administration Fellows Track to the Stamford Campus. There will be no change in the current curriculum that is taught at the Hartford Campus. The overall purpose of this change is to accommodate to students located in that area and explore the large market in that geographical location.

There were no questions. A motion to approve was made by Charles Mahoney and seconded by Mitchell Green. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposal unanimously.

4. Presented for consideration and voting – *Add/Create new degree or certificate program (GPAR 23-DIST-8YIKO9) Master of Science in Exercise Prescription*

- a. Sponsoring Department: Kinesiology
- b. Sponsoring School/College: CAHNR
- c. Presenter: Linda Pescatello

Linda Pescatello from the Department of Kinesiology proposed a new Master of Science in Exercise Prescription. The department currently has a nine-credit certificate program that is very successful but will typically lose students due to many of them wanting to pursue a master's degree in the field. Due to the demand in the industry and potential growth and revenue, the department wants to invest in a new program to accommodate to these factors. Additionally, they have polled former students, and most of them stated they would be interested in returning to pursue a degree.

Etan Markus asked what would occur for current students. Pescatello said that current students and those who have already completed the current certificate program will be grandfathered in and will not have to repeat classes that they have already taken. A motion to approve was made by Charles Mahoney and seconded by D. Betsy McCoach. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposal unanimously.

- 5. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program (GPAR 23-DILE-7HBBED) Dementia Care Certificate Program*
 - a. Sponsoring Department: Nursing
 - b. Sponsoring School/College: School of Nursing
 - c. Presenter: Christine Dileone

Christine Dileone from the School of Nursing proposed the change to the Dementia Care Certificate Program. This change would focus on the addition of a one-credit class that will increase interest in the program. This course will be pulling content from other courses to serve as a more introductory-style class for students to begin with before continuing with the program. It was noted that this course will run three times a year for seven weeks, with the course starting in the beginning of the semester. This will avoid confusion with enrollment deadlines.

There were no questions presented. A motion to approve was made by Mitchell Green and seconded by Judith Thorpe. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposal unanimously.

- 6. Presented for consideration and voting – *Add/Create new degree or certificate program (GPAR 21-LIBA-HOYLVT) Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Holocaust and Genocide Studies*
 - a. Sponsoring Department(s): Human Rights Institute
Literatures, Cultures, and Languages
 - b. Sponsoring School/College(s): Global Affairs
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
 - c. Presenter: Kathryn Libal

Representing the Human Rights Institute and the Department of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages, Kathryn Libal discussed the proposal of the new Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Holocaust and Genocide Studies. After years of

development, this new certificate will draw and build upon the strengths of the Human Rights Institute and other departments across campus to provide more intensive training to teachers after new laws were passed in Connecticut relating to genocide awareness. Additionally, the department has received support and approvals from all other departments involved and plans to use recently raised scholarship funds to increase worldwide, experiential learning opportunities.

There were a few questions from the committee. Firstly, D. Betsy McCoach asked if NEAG students would be able to complete this certificate during their five-year track. Libal stated that there is no guarantee that it would be possible, and that it may take them an extra summer semester if they are interested. Additionally, Charles Mahoney asked if teachers were the main target audience for this post-baccalaureate certificate. Libal said the department believes that teachers will be the most interested based on a new mandate, but people in the museum and adult education industry will also likely be drawn to the new program. A motion to approve was made by Etan Markus and seconded by David Embrick. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposal unanimously.

7. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program (GPAR 23-CODR-QIDJOG) Feminist Studies*
 - a. Sponsoring Department: WGSS
 - b. Sponsoring School/College: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
 - c. Presenter: Ariana Codr

Ariana Codr from the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department presented on the name change of the Certificate in Feminist Studies to align with the name of the program and to more accurately describe courses that count toward the certificate.

There were no questions. A motion to approve was made by Charles Mahoney and seconded by D. Betsy McCoach. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposal unanimously.

8. Announcements:
 - a. There was a brief discussion regarding the future of how to handle Integrative Studies Ph.D. candidates. Dean Holsinger stated that moving forward, the Executive Committee will likely shift to having separate meetings (once in the spring semester, and once in the fall semester) regarding these proposals, rather than having them at the general meeting.
9. Discussion Item: “Best Practices and Mentoring Guide” (revised draft)
 - a. Dean Holsinger stated that after presenting the initial draft to the Graduate Faculty Council, some members of the faculty felt “frightened” that students may decide to hold them to these expectations, and as a result, the wording in the title of the document was changed to “Best Practices” instead.
 - b. David Embrick stated that a lot of the language still appears to frame these best practices as expectations that faculty could be held accountable for. Dean Holsinger stated that language can be modified since there is no current

enforcement mechanism. However, when speaking with offices of different Deans and Provosts across campus, they seemed to like the document as a point of reference when issues between advisors and advisees were to arise.

- c. Charles Mahoney asked if there was going to be a change made to putting discussion of community at the end of the document, rather than at the beginning. Both Dean Holsinger and Associate Dean Bernstein stated that this would be an appropriate change that they are planning to make.
10. The meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 3:52 p.m. The next meeting is currently scheduled for April 19th, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.