



Date: Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Location: WebEx

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

Attendees: Judy Brown, 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.

Absent: Judith Thorpe

Guests: Damir Dzhafarov, Maria Gyure, Julia Kuzovkina, Katherine Libal, Rachel O’Neill, Saran Stewart, and Mark Urban.

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1. Agenda item number one (1) – Call to order. The regular meeting of the Executive Committee for April 21, 2021 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 March 10, 2021 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 unanimously.**
 3. Announcements:
 - a. Doctoral Student Travel and Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships. Dean Holsinger announced that the Doctoral Student Travel Fellowship has been changed to the Conference Participation Award. This change will cover a broader spectrum for which a student can use these monies. The Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship has been changed to the Summer Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship. It has been changed to just once a year in the summer to assist doctoral students with their research toward their dissertation. Both Fellowships are a one-time only award.
 4. Agenda item number four (4) – Presented for consideration and voting – *Car 21-5695 – Practicum in Human Rights – HRTS 5282*. This course was approved previously as an S/U course but the department would like it to now be credit bearing. After a brief discussion, there was a motion offered to accept the proposal, which was seconded. **Agenda item number four (4) was approved unanimously.**
 5. Agenda item number five (5) - Presented for consideration and voting – *GPAP 21-STEWE-GK2A1T – add a new area of concentration – Learning, Leadership and Education Policy PhD*. This request is to add a fourth area of concentration to an existing course of study. After a brief

discussion, there was a motion made to accept the request, which was seconded. **Agenda item number five (5) was approved unanimously.**

6. Agenda item number six (6) – Presented for consideration and voting – *GPAR 21-GUAR-LO31TNM – Add a new dual degree program – Juris Doctor (J.D.)/ Public Administration (M.P.A.)*
This request to add a new dual degree program is for two currently existing degree programs. Required credits for the JD program remain at 71 and credits for the MPA is 31. Unfortunately there was no one from either program who attended the meeting in order for the EC members to ask questions. Dual degree programs have to be finished at the same time in order to be awarded together. This led to many questions regarding the timing of the degrees. After a lengthy discussion the Committee agreed to table this request because further discussion is needed with representatives from both programs. **Agenda item number six (6) was tabled until representatives from both programs can meet with the Committee.**
7. Agenda item number seven (7) – Presented for consideration and voting – *GPAR 21 KUZO-GFF1ZZ – Add a new area of concentration – Plant Biology and Biotechnology, Plant Health.*
This request is to add new areas of concentration in Biotechnology and Plant Health. The committee was confused about whether the program really wants to put in new tracks of study or more formal areas of concentration. After this discussion, it was determined that this request should be tabled for further discussion with the program. **Agenda item number seven (7) was returned to the program for more information.**
8. Agenda item number eight (8) – Presented for consideration and voting – *GPAR 21-GYUR-XLON32 – New Certificate Program – Clinical Communication and Counseling.* Counseling and communication skills are requisite for health care advocates including family members as well. The addition of this certificate program addresses need to support the learning of both foundational principles and skill development for all types of health care providers and advocates. This certificate will provide increased health, communication and counseling literacy and give graduates economic and career utility. It can be broadly applied to multiple careers and thus appeal to a diverse audience. After a discussion of the benefits of the course, a motion was made to approve the request, which was seconded. **Agenda item number eight (8) was approved with one abstention and a request to modify the catalog language.**
9. Agenda item number nine (9) – Presented for consideration and voting – *Car 21-6937 – Internship – ISG 5091.* This course will provide experiential learning to integrate knowledge and theory from the classroom with practical application and skills developed in a professional setting. This request is for an S/U graded course. After a brief discussion, a motion was made to approve the request, which was seconded. **Agenda item number nine (9) was approved with one abstention and slight modification to the catalog language.**
10. Agenda item number ten (10) – Presented for consideration and voting – *CAR 21-6717 – Environmental Risk Practicum – EEB 5882.* This request is for an S/U graded course that will provide an opportunity for students to work together in diverse interdisciplinary teams to conduct risk assessments for local partners. There was a discussion that ensued and then a motion to approve, which was seconded. **Agenda item number ten (10) was approved with a request for changes to the syllabus.**

11. Agenda item number eleven (11) – Dean’s report and discussion.
 - a. Discussion of the Role of the EC in reviewing CAR Proposals. There has been some discussion concerning how far the EC needs to go into reviewing a CAR proposal. The EC reviews CAR proposals for S/U graded course requests and acts as a college level C & C for Institute programs to evaluate course content. There is no need to evaluate the Syllabus except for Institute courses.
 - b. Expansion of the Logic Certificate to External Applicants. Damir Dzhafarov from the Logic group joined the meeting to inform the Committee that while originally the Logic Certificate was only available to UConn students, the program is planning to open up admission to individuals outside of UConn as well. There has been considerable interest from external applicants.
12. New business and updates – There was no discussion of new business or updates.
13. 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 4:48 pm.
14. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for **September 15, 2021 via Webex.**