



Date: Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, from 3:00pm-5:00pm

Location: [WebEx Conference](#)

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

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

Absent: David Embrick

Guests: Lila Aiyar, Judy Brown, Jose Cruz, Jill Desimini, Sydney Everhart, Rachael Gabriel, Maria Gyure, Ji-Young Lee, Linda Pescatello, Zhenlei Xiao

\* Indicates member was absent for voting on motions.

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1. The meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 3:03 p.m.
2. Presentation and vote for past meeting minutes, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023: The minutes from this EC meeting were approved unanimously.
3. Nominations for the Executive Committee: A ballot for new Executive Committee candidates will go out to the Graduate Faculty Council in the coming weeks.
4. Presented for consideration and voting – *Creation of a New Course “Clinical Prenatal Genetics”* (CAR 23-19205) Genetic Counseling PSM
  - a. Sponsoring Department: Institute for System Genomics (ISG)
  - b. Sponsoring School/College: The Graduate School
  - c. Presenter(s): Maria Gyure

Maria Gyure from the Institute for System Genomics presented on creating a new course titled “Clinical Prenatal Genetics.” This is a seven-week, online, asynchronous course that aims to give first-year students in-depth, introductory content relating to

genetics regarding pregnancy, screen diagnostic testing, and more. The class will culminate in a final roleplay assessment that will allow students to utilize the content of their work throughout the course.

There was a brief discussion on how the roleplay element of the course would work if the modality of the course is online and asynchronous. Gyure explained that the roleplay would be synchronous, however, scheduled at the convenience of the student and their associated genetic counselor faculty member.

5. Presented for consideration and voting – *Creation of a New Course “Clinical Practice for Genetic Counselors I”* (CAR 23-19325) Genetic Counseling PSM
  - a. Sponsoring Department: Institute for System Genomics (ISG)
  - b. Sponsoring School/College: The Graduate School
  - c. Presenter(s): Maria Gyure

Gyure also discussed the addition of another seven-week, one-credit course intended to prepare students for their future clinical rotations. The content will revolve around real-life issues that are frequently encountered during these clinical rotations, which will take place in the semester following this course.

6. Presented for consideration and voting – *Creation of a New Course “Journal Club”* (CAR 23-19405) Genetic Counseling PSM and Health Care Genetics PSM
  - a. Sponsoring Department: Institute for System Genomics (ISG)
  - b. Sponsoring School/College: The Graduate School
  - c. Presenter(s): Judy Brown

Judy Brown presented on the addition of a new writing course for students in both the Genetic Counseling PSM and Health Care Genetics PSM programs. This online and asynchronous courses’ purpose is to get graduate learners more experience with literature reviews and how they interacts with the science and technology within the field.

Etan Markus asked for clarification on how students will be graded. Brown stated that students will give presentations on primary research papers and evaluate the presentations of other students based on prompts and a set rubric.

7. Presented for consideration and voting – *Creation of a New Course “Research Methods”* (CAR 23-19445) Genetic Counseling PSM and Health Care Genetics PSM
  - a. Sponsoring Department: Institute for System Genomics (ISG)
  - b. Sponsoring School/College: The Graduate School
  - c. Presenter(s): Lila Aiyar

Lila Aiyar presented a new, three-credit “Research Methods” course within the Institute for System Genomics. This course will be offered in the spring semester and focuses on exposing students to research within the genetic counseling field, and the process in which it is conducted. By the end of the course, students will have formulated their own research proposal through step-by-step assessments.

**Note:** While presented separately, items numbered four through seven were voted on jointly by the Executive Committee.

A motion to approve was made by Charles Mahoney and seconded by Mitchell Green. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposals unanimously.

8. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 23-DIST-RE45QK) Exercise Prescription Online Graduate Certificate Program
- a. Sponsoring Department: Kinesiology
  - b. Sponsoring School/College: CAHNR
  - c. Presenter(s): Linda Pescatello

At a previous Executive Committee meeting, Linda Pescatello presented an expansion of the M.S. in Exercise Prescription program. In the development of this, the department has also requested to expand the Online Graduate Certificate from nine credits to twelve, adding another core course that serves as a prerequisite for an existing course already within the track of the program.

There were no questions asked by the committee. A motion to approve was made by Charles Mahoney and seconded by Etan Markus. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposal unanimously.

9. Presented for consideration and voting – *Creation of a New Course “Data Visualization and Communication”* (CAR 23-19505) Data Science M.S.
- a. Sponsoring Department: The Graduate School
  - b. Sponsoring School/College: The Graduate School
  - c. Presenter(s): Jose Cruz

Jose Cruz proposed the solidification of the “Data Visualization and Communication” for the Data Science M.S. program. The content of this two-credit course has been taught by the School of Business multiple times in the past as a temporary course, and they are now seeking to make it an official, numbered course in the catalog.

Betsy McCoach asked questions regarding the software of the course, as well as the modality in which it would be taught, which Cruz was able to clarify for her. A motion to approve was made by Betsy McCoach and seconded by Mitchell Green. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposal unanimously.

10. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 23-SPEA-OQWTEA) Advanced Business Certificate in Business Analytics
- a. Sponsoring Department: OPIM
  - b. Sponsoring School/College: School of Business
  - c. Presenter(s): Jose Cruz

Cruz also presented changes to the Advanced Business Certificate in Business Analytics. The program has broadened its course offerings for the certificate with other existing courses within the School of Business, as well as added additional modalities to all courses within the program to give students more flexibility when deciding what courses to take to earn their certification, and how to take them.

Mitchell Green inquired about what specific modalities will be implemented. Cruz stated that all courses that are online and fully asynchronous and were developed with the help of CETL. A motion to approve was made by Judith Thorpe and seconded by Charles Mahoney. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposal unanimously.

11. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 23-BARB-CZXKE0) Financial Technology Accelerated (M.S. FinTech)

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| a. Sponsoring Department:     | OPIM and Finance   |
| b. Sponsoring School/College: | School of Business |
| c. Presenter(s):              | Jose Cruz          |

Cruz additionally discussed modifications to the M.S. in Financial Technology program. They plan to add an accelerated option so that undergraduate students can take graduate level courses to reduce the number of credits they need to take when joining the master’s program. Students would still need to go through the application process; however, they would be able to complete the MS more quickly, thus saving the students time and money.

Multiple members of the committee raised concerns about language in the GPAR that stated all undergraduate applicants to the accelerated MS with a 3.0 minimum GPA would be “guaranteed” admission into the program. The committee expressed concern that this language would indicate that they cannot deny any student who decides to take this path with over a 3.0 GPA, and that would cause many issues in the future. Cruz stated that he would return to the department to discuss changing the language. A motion to approve was made by Mitchell Green and seconded by Betsy McCoach. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposal unanimously with the agreement that the catalog language would be modified so that students with a 3.0 would not be “guaranteed” admission to the MS.

12. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 23-BERK-5SY1SI) M.S. in Financial Risk Management

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| a. Sponsoring School/College: | School of Business |
| b. Presenter(s):              | Jose Cruz          |

Cruz discussed the name change of the M.S. in “Financial Risk Management” to “Financial and Enterprise Risk Management.” This was done in order to align with course requirements for this program, which contain a plethora of enterprise risk courses within the plan of study. Additionally, this change will also restrict the program to the Stamford campus only, rather than also offering a Hartford campus option as well.

Betsy McCoach asked what would happen if enrollment began to rise, and if there would be enough room only at Stamford to house this program. Cruz reassured that there is plenty of underutilized space available in Stamford that would fit a growth in enrollment.

13. Presented for consideration and voting – *Add/Create new degree or certificate program* (GPAR 23-BERK-TYZ6DK) Certificate in Financial Risk Management
- a. Sponsoring School/College: School of Business
  - b. Presenter(s): Jose Cruz

Cruz also discussed the creation of a new Financial Risk Management Graduate Certificate. This would also only be offered at the Stamford campus and would contain four courses offered in-person with the potential to go online in the future.

Associate Dean Bernstein asked for clarity on the naming of the certificate, as the M.S. degree now has a different name. Cruz stated that the certificate wouldn't contain any enterprise risk content, and therefore wouldn't need to have that in the title of the new certificate.

**Note:** While presented separately, items numbered twelve through thirteen were voted on jointly by the Executive Committee.

A motion to approve was made by Etan Markus and seconded by Charles Mahoney. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposals unanimously.

14. Presented for consideration and voting – *Add/Create new degree or certificate program* (GPAR 23-LEE-QPBYR) Graduate Certificate in Plant-Based Food and Nutrition
- a. Sponsoring Department: Nutritional Sciences
  - b. Sponsoring School/College: CAHNR
  - c. Presenter(s): Ji-Young Lee  
Zhenlei Xiao

Zhenlei Xiao, with the assistance of Ji-Young Lee, presented on the new Graduate Certificate in Plant-Based Food and Nutrition program. Xiao stated that this program would be the first of its kind in the country and focus on topics ranging from the development and production of plant-based food to the health benefits of it, and disease prevention. The certificate will contain four courses at three credits each.

Etan Markus asked about the progress of the courses that haven't yet been run, and if there were enough faculty to fully support this certificate. Lee stated that the two courses that the GPAR stated were under development with CETL already been approved and added to the Graduate Catalog, which Associate Dean Bernstein confirmed. Additionally, Lee stated that there will not be an issue with staffing the program with faculty. A motion to approve was made by Mitchell Green and seconded by Betsy McCoach. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposal unanimously.

15. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 23-DESI-M5G5IK) Plant Science M.S. / Ph.D.

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| a. Sponsoring Department:     | PSLA                             |
| b. Sponsoring School/College: | CAHNR                            |
| c. Presenter(s):              | Jill Desimini<br>Sydney Everhart |

Jill Desimini, with the assistance of Sydney Everhart, discussed the addition of concentrations to the Plant Science M.S. and Ph.D. programs. Desimini indicated that there will be a total of three concentrations: Landscape Architecture, Plant Health, and Plant Biotechnology. The main goal of this proposal is to recruit more students to the Ph.D., as this is currently a struggle for the department with certain outside accreditation requirements.

There was some concern raised regarding the language in one of the listed courses, but both Desimini and Everhart were able to provide more explanation to the committee. A motion to approve was made by Charles Mahoney and seconded by Judith Thorpe. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposal unanimously.

16. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 23-MARK-JGPIIU) Psychological Sciences M.S.

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| a. Sponsoring Department:     | Psychological Sciences |
| b. Sponsoring School/College: | CLAS                   |
| c. Presenter(s):              | Etan Markus            |

Etan Markus presented on the addition of an accelerated master's program for the Psychological Sciences department. Markus described that they have over 200 undergraduate students who participate in research within the department, and this invite-only program would allow them to expand and build upon this work that they are already doing with faculty.

Mary Anne Amalaradjou asked about the current Plan B masters. Markus stated that as it stands currently, it only exists as a "safety net" for doctoral students, and that they do not admit students into a stand-alone masters. A motion to approve was made by Kristin Bott and seconded by Betsy McCoach. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposal with abstention from Etan Markus.

17. Presented for consideration and voting – *Add/Create new degree or certificate program* (GPAR 21-GABR-9ZI7E4) Adolescent Literacy Development Graduate Certificate

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| a. Sponsoring Department:     | Curriculum and Instruction |
| b. Sponsoring School/College: | Neag School of Education   |
| c. Presenter(s):              | Rachael Gabriel            |

Rachael Gabriel from the department of Curriculum and Instruction discussed the creation of a new certificate that would serve as a license for reading specialists, since the State of Connecticut requires two separate licenses. Currently, in order to attain this licensure, students start a master's or sixth-year degree and do not finish. This new, nine-credit certificate would allow a set plan of study for those desiring to attain this license.

Multiple committee members raised questions about the certificate only being nine credits. Gabriel stated that this new program has a significant number of

prerequisites and an extensive background of previous related work content and doesn't necessarily need more than nine credits. As a follow-up, there were questions about six of the nine credits being a practicum course. Gabriel talked about how practicums will be run like a course, with weekly meetings and assignments as well as on-site work.

The Executive Committee held off on a motion to approve, and Associate Dean Bernstein will reach out to Gabriel for more information on the proposal and to request changes noted above.

18. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 23-GABR-ATWJFQ) Literacy Specialist Program

- a. Sponsoring Department: Curriculum and Instruction
- b. Sponsoring School/College: Neag School of Education
- c. Presenter(s): Rachael Gabriel

19. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 23-GABR-H6RXVX) Literacy Leadership

- a. Sponsoring Department: Curriculum and Instruction
- b. Sponsoring School/College: Neag School of Education
- c. Presenter(s): Rachael Gabriel

**Note:** Items numbered eighteen and nineteen were presented jointly for consideration and voting.

Gabriel also discussed the modification of the Literacy Specialist and Literacy Leadership Programs to add instruction at the UConn Hartford campus. This change is being requested to make the program and its content more accessible for students and reach a wider audience.

There were no questions asked by the committee. A motion to approve was made by Etan Markus and seconded by Betsy McCoach. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposal unanimously.

20. Announcements

- a. Dean Holsinger discussed the upcoming process to determine his successor, and the Executive Committee's role in that search. It was stated that likely one or two members of the committee will be sought out to serve in the search for a new Dean of The Graduate School.

21. The meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 4:55 p.m. The next meeting is currently scheduled for October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023.