



Date: Wednesday, October 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*), Etan Markus, Betsy McCoach, Rosa Raudales

Absent: Mary Anne Amalaradjou, Charles Mahoney, Judith Thorpe

Guests: Stuart Duncan, Alexandra Garr-Schultz, Vishal Narayan, Jeremy Pais, Jeremy Teitelbaum

1. The meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 3:01 p.m.
2. Presentation and vote for past meeting minutes, September 20th, 2023: The minutes from this EC meeting were approved with a majority vote.
3. Presented for consideration and voting – *Revise a Course “AGNP Acute Care Clinical Practicum III”* (CAR 23-19986) Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
 - a. Sponsoring Department: Nursing
 - b. Sponsoring School/College: School of Nursing
 - c. Presenter(s): Kristin Bott
4. Presented for consideration and voting – *Revise a Course “AGNP Acute Care Clinical Practicum I”* (CAR 23-19966) Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
 - a. Sponsoring Department: Nursing
 - b. Sponsoring School/College: School of Nursing
 - c. Presenter(s): Kristin Bott
5. Presented for consideration and voting – *Revise a Course “AGNP Acute Care Clinical Practicum I”* (CAR 23-19946) Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
 - a. Sponsoring Department: Nursing
 - b. Sponsoring School/College: School of Nursing
 - c. Presenter(s): Kristin Bott

Note: Items numbered three through five were presented together and voted on by the Executive Committee.

Kristin Bott from the School of Nursing presented on changing the above three clinical seminar courses to a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grade scale. All other clinical seminars are graded this way, and the only reason that these deviate is due to a previous error when submitting these courses for initial approval.

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

6. Presented for consideration and voting – *Add/Create new degree or certificate program* (GPAR 23-GARR-9NMCHR) Graduate Certificate in Diversity Science
 - a. Sponsoring Department: Psychological Sciences
 - b. Sponsoring School/College: CLAS
 - c. Presenter(s): Alexandra Garr-Schultz

Alexandra Garr-Schultz presented on the creation of a new Diversity Science Graduate Certificate within the department of Psychological Sciences. This certificate will allow the department to continue building a diverse population of students and build a new level of expertise that will make them stand out in the post-graduation job market. The certificate will be comprised of one required course on Diversity Science and other elective courses.

The committee asked Garr-Schultz a number of questions regarding the origins, definitions, and scope of Diversity Science, and how it relates to other institutions and academia at large. A motion to approve was made by Kristin Bott and seconded by Betsy McCoach. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposal unanimously.

7. Presented for consideration and voting – *Eliminate/Discontinue existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 23-KING-33OI4C) MBA Internal and External Dual-Degree Programs
 - a. Sponsoring School/College: School of Business
 - b. Presenter(s): Vishal Narayan

Vishal Narayan from the School of Business discussed the suspension of dual-degree programs that are offered alongside the MBA program. After the significant credit decrease within the program, dual-degrees are unable to properly function with the current model. In the midst of this transition, the school would like to remove all catalog language about dual-degrees while they come up with an action plan on how to successfully incorporate them into the new MBA timeline.

A few committee members asked questions regarding the timeline on when dual-degrees will return. Narayan stated that discussions have been ongoing regarding what the school would like the new model to be, and they aim to figure it out in time for the next academic year. A motion to approve was made by Betsy McCoach and seconded by David Embrick. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposal unanimously.

8. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 23-TEIT-WJM97F) MS in Data Science
 - a. Sponsoring Department: ARE, CSE, EPSY, OPIM, Statistics
 - b. Sponsoring School/College: CAHNR, SoE, Neag, SoB, CLAS, TGS
 - c. Presenter(s): Jeremy Teitelbaum

Jeremy Teitelbaum, the director of the Data Science program proposed the removal of concentrations from the catalog. While concentrations were part of the original development of the program, it became apparent that they would be impossible to administer and have currently not been utilized.

Etan Markus asked if the removal of concentrations will be harmful to the students who may desire to have a particular focus area. Teitelbaum clarified that students would still be able to take specific electives in a certain sub-interest, and similar competitive programs at other institutions do not feature concentrations, so the university wouldn't be remiss in any way. A motion to approve was made by Betsy McCoach and seconded by Etan Markus. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposal unanimously.

9. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 23-PAIS-24KKJT) Accelerated MA in Sociology
 - a. Sponsoring Department: Sociology
 - b. Sponsoring School/College: CLAS
 - c. Presenter(s): Jeremy Pais

Jeremy Pais from the department of Sociology presented on revisions to the 4 + 1 accelerated MA program. Some of these changes include adding more detailed admissions criteria, faculty advisors, and getting rid of specific tracks within the program and replacing them with a guide of electives. One current issue that is being debated within the department is the addition of a one-credit, professional seminar course that would assist students with the integration into their cohort and graduate education. However, this would go over the 12-credit maximum of graduate credits that can be taken as an undergraduate and applied to both undergraduate and graduate plans of study.

Associate Dean Bernstein confirms that this extra credit would be an issue, and while this is a good idea, the Office of the Registrar's degree audit team would flag this and not award a degree. Other members of the committee propose some potential ideas for handling this, such as shifting around where some of the other classes are taken or integrating this professional seminar into an existing three-credit course or developing a new course. The Executive Committee agrees to table this vote for a future meeting, where more clarity will be provided on how the department will deal with this issue.

10. Discussion Items
 - a. Graduate Fellowships

- i. Stuart Duncan from The Graduate School discussed potential changes to the fellowship awarding process for the Harriott, Jorgensen, and Crandall Fellowships. The current process is as follows:
 1. Prospective students self-nominate, and departments can nominate up to four candidates from the self-nominations, which typically leads to 80-120 Ph.D. nominees, and 50-80 master's nominees.
 2. A committee for each fellowship is formed, and each candidate is reviewed by five different faculty members and ranked via a points system. A candidate can't be ranked by a faculty member within their desired department.
 3. Students with the most points overall are discussed by the committee which makes final decisions about who is awarded a fellowship.
- ii. Since this process typically takes a significant amount of time and effort, there are several possible ways to revise this process:
 1. Modifying the existing student-based selection process by combining the Harriott and Jorgensen Fellowships. This would reduce staff and faculty time to review. This could be coupled with only asking committee members to review department nominations, response questions, and diversity statements. Relatedly, departments could be limited to 2 nominations each, rather than 4 which would lessen the time burden on staff and committee members and might spread the awards over more departments.
 2. Making these awards department-based. Departments would have a much stronger recruiting tool for who would receive the awards and who the back-up candidates would be. This would shorten the process significantly, and would no longer make the award competitive, as each department would receive the ability to award the fellowship on a rotating basis.
- iii. Etan Markus expressed praise for the department-centered approach. He believed that this autonomy is good, as departments know best who their strongest candidates are, and sometimes they are surprised to see lower-ranked students receive the fellowships, while their top choice does not.
- iv. Both Betsy McCoach and Rosa Raudales voiced concerns over how a rotating schedule would affect smaller departments. As the schedule would have to consider the number of enrolled students and the size of the department overall, some small departments would potentially have to wait up to eight years for one of their students to receive a fellowship, and this could be harmful and perceived as unfair.
- v. There is more discussion around the rotational schedule. Etan Markus points out that there should be an option for departments to defer the fellowship to the following year if there is a pool of weak candidates. If there is not that option, this schedule would quickly unravel.

- vi. Both Kristin Bott and David Embrick expressed understanding that both the streamlined process for awarding these fellowships is necessary, but the rotational schedule may prove inequitable.
- vii. The Executive Committee agrees that further talks will be held regarding this to brainstorm more effective processes that can be implemented.

11. The meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 4:51 p.m. The next meeting, a reserve meeting, is currently scheduled for November 1st, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.