



Date: Wednesday, November 15th, 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*), David Embrick, Mitchell Green, Kent Holsinger (*Ex-Officio, Chair*), Barbara Kream (*Ex-Officio*), Charles Mahoney, Rosa Raudales, Judith Thorpe

Absent: Etan Markus, Betsy McCoach

Guests: Dorothea Anagnostopoulos, Daniel Burkey, Stuart Duncan, Desen Ozkan, Tracy Sinclair, 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, November 1st, 2023: The minutes from this EC meeting were approved with a majority vote.
3. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 23-WEIS-W9LKJR) MFA in Dramatic Arts
 - a. Sponsoring School/College: School of Fine Arts
 - b. Sponsoring Department: Dramatic Arts
 - c. Presenter(s): Daniela Weiser

Daniela Weiser from the School of Fine Arts presented on the change to the MFA in Dramatic Arts program. This change adds a paragraph regarding an end-of-semester exhibition gallery held by the department. As participation is mandatory in order for students to obtain credit, this new language provides clarification on the expectations of this exhibition, and what is required of the student leading up to and during the exhibit.

There were no questions asked by the committee. 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 – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 23-SINC-67MAD6) Teacher Certification Program for College Graduates (TCPCG)
 - a. Sponsoring School/College: Neag School of Education
 - b. Sponsoring Department: Curriculum and Instruction
 - c. Presenter(s): Dorothea Anagnostopoulos
Tracy Sinclair

5. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 23-SINC-LYD9P4) Teacher Certification Program for College Graduates (TCPCG)
 - a. Sponsoring School/College: Neag School of Education
 - b. Sponsoring Department: Educational Psychology
 - c. Presenter(s): Dorothea Anagnostopoulos
Tracy Sinclair

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

Dorothea Anagnostopoulos and Tracy Sinclair presented the changes in the Teacher Certification Program for College Graduates (TCPCG) in both the Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Psychology programs. Sinclair discussed that after conversation with faculty and students, the programs have worked to reduce the burden of coursework and credit load for students. Sinclair continued by saying that required courses currently have some overlap, so the content in courses no longer needed will be included in existing courses. Anagnostopoulos also mentioned that the credit reduction would allow the program to move into the summer term and spread-out course work, allowing for a cost reduction for students with the added benefit of less credits being taken at during each semester.

Dean Holsinger asked if the new credit amount will be comparable to other programs in the area. Sinclair stated that this would be true, and the current credit amount is actually higher than most programs. Additionally, the credit reduction will allow the program to be at a similar price range to other public institutions' programs. Charles Mahoney inquired about how the proposed flexible summer schedule would work, as well as the structure of the courses. Sinclair said the new summer spanning schedule allows courses to begin outside of the University's standard summer session parameters, so that it is more appropriate for an individual in the program working in a school setting. Furthermore, the exact class structure, whether a daily or block schedule has yet to be determined but will still fulfill the requirements necessary for the number of credits. A motion to approve was made by Rosa Raudales and seconded by Mary Anne Amalaradjou. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposal unanimously.

6. Presented for consideration and voting – *Add/Create new degree or certificate program* (GPAR 23-BURK-95DXCE) Engineering Education
 - a. Sponsoring School/College: School of Engineering & Neag
School of Education

b. Presenter(s):

Daniel Burkey
Desen Ozkan

Daniel Burkey and Desen Ozkan from the School of Engineering presented on the addition of a new Engineering Education Ph.D. program. Burkey explained that in recent years, there has been a lot of development within this discipline, with multiple programs popping up across the country. However, there are currently no similar programs in the northeast. The School of Engineering has hired a new faculty member (Ozkan) who has a specific focus in Engineering Education, and other current faculty members have expressed interest in taking part in the program. Each cohort is expected to have around five to ten students accepted from a broad range of backgrounds, with a few students already at the university interested in applying/transferring in. All required courses in the proposed program are already approved.

Mitchell Green asked for more description on what Engineering Education is, in which Ozkan responded that it is essentially the study of how human behavior shapes and formulates engineering and its practices, as well as the different ways to think, theorize, and teach engineering in a higher education setting. Rosa Raudales expressed concerns about the broad applicant pool this may attract, with Dean Holsinger mentioning that it may be difficult getting students on the same level of baseline knowledge if they have varying different backgrounds. Burkey stated that they were intentional about having a broad spectrum of applicants when creating the program, so many of the beginning courses are tailored to gaining a more general understanding of necessary introductory knowledge. Ozkan mentioned that some of these courses contain a heavy load of reading material that people from diverse backgrounds and perspectives can interpret and apply in different ways, which is a major part of the goal of this program.

Some concerns were raised by the Executive Committee regarding stable funding and lack of faculty for the program but recognized that this is normal in a program's infancy. A motion to approve was made by Mitchell Green and seconded by Charles Mahoney. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposal unanimously.

7. Discussion Item: Graduate Fellowships

- a. Stuart Duncan returned to the Executive Committee to follow-up on a previous Committee discussion on the potential change in the process of distributing Graduate Fellowships. Two previous scenarios presented regarding the allocation of fellowships to departments on a rotating basis have been ruled out at this time because it would severely disadvantage smaller departments.
- b. After some discussion and analysis across departments and members of The Graduate School, one of the current ideas is to combine the existing Harriott and Jorgensen awards into one fellowship. This would streamline the current review process and allow awards to be given out consistently and in a more timely basis.
- c. Part of this potential combination would be rewriting the language regarding what is required to apply for the fellowship, and what reviewers would be looking for when evaluating applicants. The consensus of the committee is that this is a good idea, but it is important that this language be carefully updated.

8. The meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 4:09 p.m. The next meeting is currently scheduled for January 17th, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.