



Date: Wednesday, January 17th, 2024, from 3:00pm-5:00pm

Location: WebEx Conference

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

Attendees: Mary Anne Amalaradjou, Marina Astitha, Mary Bernstein (*Ex-Officio*), Jack Corcoran (*Ex-Officio, Recording Secretary*), David Embrick, Kent Holsinger (*Ex-Officio, Chair*), Barbara Kream (*Ex-Officio*), Charles Mahoney, Betsy McCoach, Royce Mohan, Judith Thorpe*

Absent: Mitchell Green, Etan Markus

Guests: Denise Bourassa, Jose Cruz, Ashley Helton, Kelly Lyman, Vishal Narayan, Jeremy Pais, Lisa Sanetti, Ron Squibbs, Nora Sutton, Jiong Tang, Timothy Vadas, Jennie Weiner

* *Indicates member was absent for voting on motions.*

1. The meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 3:02 p.m.
2. Presentation and vote for past meeting minutes, November 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-DONA-HZKG93) Executive Leadership Program (ELP)
 - a. Sponsoring School/College: Neag School of Education
 - b. Sponsoring Department: Educational Leadership
 - c. Presenter(s): Kelly Lyman
Jennie Weiner

Jennie Weiner from the Neag School of Education presented on the change to the Executive Leadership Program (ELP). This change would create a bridge between students pursuing the department’s Ed.D. program and allow them to transfer course credit already earned into the ELP program. A bridge between students in the ELP program looking to pursue an Ed.D. already exists, and this change would add an equivalent reciprocity.

Multiple members of the Executive Committee asked Weiner to verify that there would be no new curricular needs by adding this new structure, and she confirmed that no new courses would need to be created, and this bridge program would still meet all required assessment needs.

A motion to approve was made by Charles Mahoney and seconded by Betsy McCoach. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposal unanimously.

4. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 23-KING-NB4SEN) MBA – Dual Degree Programs
 - a. Sponsoring School/College: School of Business
 - b. Presenter(s): Jose Cruz
Vishal Narayan

Jose Cruz and Vishal Narayan presented jointly on the restructuring of the MBA's dual degree programs. After switching the MBA program from 57 to 42 credits, the existing dual degree partnerships no longer functioned correctly. Since interest from partner schools and departments still exists, the School of Business created a "post-graduate" MBA format, that would only be 33 credits after the student's initial graduate degree. As an example, Narayan outlined that a student would complete a degree such as a J.D. at UConn, and then pursue the MBA after completing that initial degree.

Dean Holsinger asked if all accrediting bodies approve of this formula, to which Cruz asserted that they did. Additionally, multiple Executive Committee members asked for clarification regarding if a student could hypothetically start the MBA program first, and then proceed into their other desired program. Cruz stated that the current structure will only allow for the MBA program to be started afterwards, not prior to or concurrently with the other degree program. Associate Dean Bernstein also highlighted the current language of "Dual Degree" is inaccurate and should be changed.

A motion to approve was made by David Embrick and seconded by Charles Mahoney. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposal unanimously, with the understanding that Associate Dean Bernstein will work with the School of Business to change the current "Dual Degree" name to something more accurate.

5. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 23-HELT-812ANC) Natural Resources: Land, Water, and Air
 - a. Sponsoring School/College: College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources
 - b. Sponsoring Department: Natural Resources and the Environment
 - c. Presenter(s): Ashley Helton

Ashley Helton presented on the name change of the "Natural Resources: Land, Water, and Air" M.S. and Ph.D. programs to "Natural Resources and the Environment." Helton explained that the prior name is outdated and not reflective of the current department name or the content of the program.

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

6. Presented for consideration and voting – *Eliminate/Discontinue existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 23-SANE-EUE0GK) Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis

- a. Sponsoring School/College: Neag School of Education
- b. Sponsoring Department: Educational Psychology
- c. Presenter(s): Lisa Sanetti

Lisa Sanetti from the Department of Educational Psychology presented on the discontinuation of the Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis. Despite being highly sought after with lots of efforts put in to create the program, the national accrediting body recently changed their criteria to state that a master's degree is now required to pursue the certification. Since there are not enough faculty to take on developing a master's program in this area, the certification must be cancelled. Sanetti also confirmed there are not any current students or applicants for this program.

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

7. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 23-BOUR-3NYQBC) Nurse Leader

- a. Sponsoring School/College: School of Nursing
- b. Sponsoring Department: Nursing
- c. Presenter(s): Denise Bourassa

Denise Bourassa, director of the Nurse Leader program, presented the request name change from “Nurse Leader” to “Nursing Administration and Leadership.” Bourassa and her colleagues feel as though this more detailed name encapsulates the content of the program better, as well as benefits the program through an advertising lens.

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

8. Presented for consideration and voting – *Revision of an Existing Course* (CAR 23-22026) SOCI 5001 - Proseminar

- a. Sponsoring School/College: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- b. Sponsoring Department: Sociology
- c. Presenter(s): Jeremy Pais

9. Presented for consideration and voting – *Creation of a New Course* (CAR 23-22146) SOCI 5002 - Proseminar

- a. Sponsoring School/College: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- b. Sponsoring Department: Sociology

- c. Presenter(s): Jeremy Pais
10. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 23-PAIS-1U4O2C) M.A. in Sociology (with concurrent enrollment in Ph.D. program)
- a. Sponsoring School/College: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
 - b. Sponsoring Department: Sociology
 - c. Presenter(s): Jeremy Pais
11. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 23-PAIS-IG3DPS) Accelerated (4+1) M.A. in Sociology
- a. Sponsoring School/College: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
 - b. Sponsoring Department: Sociology
 - c. Presenter(s): Jeremy Pais

Note: Items numbered eight through eleven were presented jointly for consideration and voting.

Jeremy Pais from the Department of Sociology presented on the multiple changes to the department's 4+1 integrated bachelor's/master's program. The two 1.5 credit seminar courses that were presented by Pais would be taken during a student's undergraduate career. In this way, students will be able to take 12 credits of graduate sociology courses while they are still undergraduates and have them count toward both the graduate and undergraduate plan of study. This revision was in response to concern by the Executive Committee at a prior meeting that undergraduates would be required to take more than 12 credits of graduate work while they were still undergraduates. The revisions have eliminated this potential problem.

There were no questions asked by the committee. A motion to approve was made by Marina Astitha and seconded by Royce Mohan. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposals unanimously.

12. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 23-HANZ-3191AS) M.Mus. in Performance, M.Mus. in Choral Conducting, M.Mus. in Instrumental Conducting, M.A. in Historical Musicology, M.A. in Music Theory, D.M.A. in Performance, D.M.A. in Conducting, Ph.D. in Music Theory and History
- a. Sponsoring School/College: School of Fine Arts
 - b. Sponsoring Department: Music
 - c. Presenter(s): Ron Squibbs

Ron Squibbs from the Department of Music presented on multiple alterations to their programs. All presented changes were made in an effort to align content between all the programs, consolidation sequences of courses, diversify content, and create a more flexible framework for students. Additionally, Squibbs noted that all of the proposed changes were made in accordance with and under the review of the national accrediting body.

Charles Mahoney asked for clarification whether these changes are pending approval or have already been granted approval from the national accrediting body. Squibbs verified that the department has already received the approval.

A motion to approve was made by Charles Mahoney and seconded by Mary Anne Amalaradjou. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposal unanimously.

13. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 23-VADA-FYLESA) Environmental Engineering
- a. Sponsoring School/College: College of Engineering
 - b. Sponsoring Department: Civil and Environmental Engineering
 - c. Presenter(s): Timothy Vadas

Timothy Vadas presented on the changes to the Environmental Engineering program. After reviewing existing catalog language, Vadas proposed the changes that would clean up redundancies and make program requirements more concise. Specifically, the program is proposing a restructure from four core ENVE courses required, down to just two core courses with supplementary electives. Secondly, they are specifying that additional coursework assignments will be given by a student's advisory committee, rather than the admissions committee. Finally, the program has decided to redefine their two-part general exam to simply a qualifying exam, followed by a general exam.

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

- ~~14. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 23-PILV-17126B) Advanced Systems Engineering MEng~~
- ~~a. Sponsoring School/College: College of Engineering~~
 - ~~b. Presenter(s): Nora Sutton~~

- ~~15. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 23-PILV-50V2IY) Advanced Systems Engineering Certificate~~
- ~~a. Sponsoring School/College: College of Engineering~~
 - ~~b. Presenter(s): Nora Sutton~~

Note: Items numbered fourteen and fifteen were removed from the agenda by the presenter during this Executive Committee meeting.

16. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 23-PILV-Q290YQ) Power Grid Modernization Certificate
- a. Sponsoring School/College: College of Engineering
 - b. Sponsoring Department: Electrical and Computer Engineering
 - c. Presenter(s): Nora Sutton

Nora Sutton presented on the minor change to the Power Grid Modernization Certificate. The proposed adjustment to this program is to change the current CIP code assigned to the program to a more specific and fitting one.

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

17. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 23-PILV-ZHLCP4) Mechanical Engineering MEng
- a. Sponsoring School/College: College of Engineering
 - b. Sponsoring Department: School of Mechanical, Aerospace, and Manufacturing Engineering
 - c. Presenter(s): Nora Sutton

Sutton also proposed the changes to the Mechanical Engineering MEng. After the formation of the new College of Engineering and subsequent School of Mechanical, Aerospace, and Manufacturing Engineering, the Mechanical Engineering MEng was updated to reflect those name changes, whilst also eliminating their current required concentrations, and instead make them optional for students.

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

18. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 23-SUTT-63ZD8P) MEng
- a. Sponsoring School/College: College of Engineering
 - b. Sponsoring Department: Mechanical Engineering
 - c. Presenter(s): Nora Sutton
Jiong Tang

Sutton, with assistance from Jiong Tang, also presented the changes to the MEng program, which adds a new concentration in Digital Design and Manufacturing (DDM). Due to the demand of industry partners and local organizations, the Department of Mechanical Engineering desires to make this new concentration that would primarily focus on the usage of digital tools in engineering, specialization in engineering software, and statistical quality control.

Dean Holsinger asked if all courses have been developed. Sutton said that most are completed and approved, and two are still in the process of being developed with CETL. Charles Mahoney questioned if there would be any sort of course overlap or sharing with the Digital Media and Design (DMD) Department. Tang assured that despite the similarity in acronyms, DDM and DMD will very likely not overlap. Royce Mohan asked if it would be possible for a student to switch to another concentration once enrolled in this program. Tang said that that currently isn't allowed, but further discussions will be had within the department.

A motion to approve was made by Royce Mohan and seconded by Betsy McCoach. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposal unanimously.

19. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 24-D'AM-RS90XO) Animal Science M.S. (Plans A and B), Animal Science Ph.D.

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| a. Sponsoring School/College: | College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources |
| b. Sponsoring Department: | Animal Science |
| c. Presenter(s): | <i>None</i> |

In the absence of the planned presenter for the Department of Animal Science, Executive Committee member Mary Anne Amalaradjou led the discussion of the proposed added concentration of Animal Nutrition for the M.S. and Ph.D. tracks. The concentration was previously a part of the department but was removed after there was no longer any faculty support. With the addition of a new faculty member who specializes in Animal Nutrition, the department intends to reintroduce the concentration.

A brief discussion is held about how concentrations are classified within Animal Science and other programs across the University. A motion to approve was made by Marina Astitha and seconded by Charles Mahoney. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposal unanimously.

20. Discussion Item: Mentorship Training

- a. Dean Holsinger led the discussion relating to the improvements in mentorship that have occurred within The Graduate School. He, in conjunction with Associate Dean Bernstein and other staff members at The Graduate School, would like to create a mandatory mentorship training program that would be required for faculty to participate in before being appointed to the graduate faculty.
- b. The proposed idea is met with overwhelming support from the committee:
 - i. David Embrick asked if there would be any sort of labor laws that would prevent the training from being mandatory. Dean Holsinger stated that it shouldn't be an issue and that he checked with Labor Relations that this would not violate the union contract.
 - ii. Betsy McCoach stated that her only concern would be getting the training to seasoned faculty who may need it more than incoming faculty. Associate Dean Bernstein stated that this is just one part of the plan, and they anticipate brainstorming more ideas to get the training to all faculty.
 - iii. Marina Astitha and Associate Dean Kream highlighted that this will be a good opportunity that will open doors for various funding opportunities for faculty if they participate.
 - iv. Royce Mohan and Mary Anne Amalaradjou suggested that a more forceful approach could be beneficial, and working this training into general onboarding or even a part of tenure would incentivize faculty members to take their advisor responsibility more seriously.
 - v. Charles Mahoney stated that from various input from new faculty within his department, they would all be interested in participating in a training program like this, in order to refine and expand upon their advisory skills.

21. The meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 4:59 p.m. The next meeting is currently scheduled for February 21st, 2024.