



Date: Wednesday, February 21st, 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: Vasileios Chousionis, Robin Coulter, Jose Cruz, Eleni Diakogeorgiou, Joy Elwell, Victoria Ford Smith

** 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, January 17th, 2024: The minutes from this EC meeting were approved unanimously.
3. Presented for consideration and voting – *Add/Create new degree or certificate program* (GPAR 24-BERG-6NH4YV) Social Responsibility & Impact in Business (SRIB) M.S.
 - a. Sponsoring School/College: School of Business
 - b. Sponsoring Department: Marketing
 - c. Presenter(s): Robin Coulter

Robin Coulter from the School of Business presented on the addition of the first master’s degree for the Marketing Department. Coulter discussed that the proposed program would be the first of its kind at a public institution in the northeast region and was created due to the rising need within the business industry at large and employers in the area. This program would be “soft-launched” in the Fall 2024, as courses are still being developed, and they would gain feedback on courses from current MBA students in order to refine the program prior to an official Fall 2025 launch. This program would also offer a 4+1 accelerated option available to all current UConn undergraduate students.

There were a few questions and concerns from committee members regarding the number of courses that are currently not fully developed for the program. The Executive Committee decided not to vote on this agenda item and revisit it when all courses have been approved.

After Associate Dean Bernstein confirmed with the registrar's office that all courses would be approved and available by registration, an e-vote was taken and the MSSRIB was approved unanimously.

4. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 24-BERG-YE8Z7S) Advanced Business Certificate in Digital Marketing Strategy

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

Jose Cruz from the School of Business presented on the credit change for the Advanced Business Certificate in Digital Marketing Strategy. This certificate program currently requires the completion of 18 credits, and the department would like to drop that requirement down to the current standard of 12 credits. Cruz stated the core courses would remain the same, but less electives will be required as a result of this change.

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

5. Presented for consideration and voting – *Revision of an Existing Course* (CAR 23-23370) Variable Topics in Mathematics

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| a. Sponsoring School/College: | College of Liberal Arts and Sciences |
| b. Sponsoring Department: | Mathematics |
| c. Presenter(s): | Vasileios Chousionis |

Vasileios Chousionis from the Mathematics Department presented on the change to one of their courses. The course, "Variable Topics in Mathematics" is currently only available in a one credit format. However, the department has found that they need to offer course content under this class number that exceeds one credit. The proposed change would allow the program to offer additional credits under this course name.

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 proposal unanimously.

6. Presented for consideration and voting – *Eliminate/Discontinue existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 24-SMIT-YWOT7O) English M.A./Ph.D.

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| a. Sponsoring School/College: | College of Liberal Arts and Sciences |
| b. Sponsoring Department: | English |
| c. Presenter(s): | Victoria Ford Smith |

7. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 24-SMIT-T7NC64) English M.A., English Ph.D.
 - a. Sponsoring School/College: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
 - b. Sponsoring Department: English
 - c. Presenter(s): Victoria Ford Smith

Note: Items numbered six through seven were presented jointly for consideration and voting.

Victoria Ford Smith from the English Department discussed the restructure of their English M.A. / English Ph.D. programs. These proposals simply streamline the M.A. and Ph.D. tracks to align their programming with other departments at the University. There is no change to requirements for the M.A. or Ph.D., and the M.A. can still be attained by a student along the way to their Ph.D.

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.

8. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 24-CART-CVR03C) Doctor of Nursing Practice
 - a. Sponsoring School/College: School of Nursing
 - b. Sponsoring Department: Nursing
 - c. Presenter(s): Joy Elwell

Joy Elwell, the Director of the Doctor of Nursing Practice program, presented on the credit adjustment to the program. Currently, for the program's series of project-related courses, one credit is weighted equivalent to 30 required practicum hours. Elwell described that many peer aspirant programs at various universities equate every 50 required practicum hours to one credit; therefore, the program would like to follow this structure as well. There would be no change to other courses or the curriculum at large, and this decision would save students' money by paying for fewer credits.

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.

9. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 24-WILL-6SSUAM) Civil Engineering Ph.D.
 - a. Sponsoring School/College: College of Engineering
 - b. Sponsoring Department: Civil and Environmental Engineering
 - c. Presenter(s): Marina Astitha

Marina Astitha discussed the restructuring of the Civil Engineering Ph.D. program. The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering decided to alter language within the Graduate Catalog to distinguish their two programs apart from one another. These alterations resulted in changes in the Civil Engineering Ph.D.'s two

concentrations, the addition of a seminar course, and a shift in credit requirements. These changes were made in order to accommodate student needs and offer more flexibility as they pursue their degree.

There were no questions asked by the committee. A motion to approve was made by Charles Mahoney and seconded by Mary Anne Amalaradjou. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposal with abstention from Astitha.

10. Presented for consideration and voting – *Add/Create a New Course (CAR 23-21026)*
Clinical Immersion

- a. Sponsoring School/College: College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources
- b. Sponsoring Department: Kinesiology
- c. Presenter(s): Eleni Diakogeorgiou

11. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program (GPAR 23-DIAK-SJIIRN)* Athletic Training M.S.

- a. Sponsoring School/College: College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources
- b. Sponsoring Department: Kinesiology
- c. Presenter(s): Eleni Diakogeorgiou

Note: Items numbered ten through eleven were presented jointly for consideration but voted on separately by the Executive Committee.

Eleni Diakogeorgiou from the Department of Kinesiology presented on both the course addition and program adjustment to the Athletic Training M.S. When the program started in 2019, enrollment numbers were low due to the ongoing pandemic, and classes were combined with Physical Therapy students. Now that enrollment has increased, a new course needs to be created in order to accommodate Athletic Training students specifically. In addition, the program is accommodating students by adding a hybrid format of course delivery.

A motion to approve *CAR 23-21026* was made by Betsy McCoach and seconded by David Embrick. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposal unanimously. A motion to approve *GPAR 23-DIAK-SJIIRN* was made by Betsy McCoach and seconded by Marina Astitha. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposal unanimously.

12. Discussion Items

- a. Mentee Guide
 - i. Dean Holsinger shared with the Executive Committee that Mary Anne Amalaradjou is working on a mentee guide to pair with the existing mentor guide. The purpose of this guide is to show students how to define the difference between an advisor and a mentor, provide guidance on how to locate a mentor and build a network, how to conduct meetings with their mentor and take the lead on their education, and more. When a draft is completed, Amalaradjou will share it with members of the committee.

13. The meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 4:18 p.m. The next meeting is currently scheduled for March 20th, 2024.