



Date: Wednesday, October 16th, 2024, 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*), Jack Corcoran (*Ex-Officio, Recording Secretary*), David Embrick, Debarchana (Debs) Ghosh, Mitchell Green, Barbara Kream (*Ex-Officio*), Betsy McCoach, Royce Mohan, Leslie Shor (*Ex-Officio, Chair*), Helen Swede

Absent: Marina Astitha, Etan Markus

Guests: Matthew Isaac Cohen, Jeffrey Dudas

1. The meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 3:02 p.m.
2. Presentation and vote for past meeting minutes, September 18th, 2024: The minutes from the prior Executive Committee meeting were approved unanimously.
3. Announcements:
 - a. Associate Dean Bernstein announced the upcoming transition to the new GPAR system, CourseLeaf, which will take effect July 1, 2025. New proposals for the next academic year must therefore be submitted prior to February 1, 2025, in order to accommodate this transition.
4. Presented for consideration and voting – *Eliminate/Discontinue existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 24-DUDA-B5TK46) M.A. in Politics and Popular Culture
 - a. Sponsoring School/College: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
 - b. Sponsoring Department: Political Science
 - c. Presenter(s): Jeffrey Dudas

Jeffrey Dudas from the Department of Political Science discussed the elimination of their M.A. in Politics and Popular Culture program. The program has small enrollment. And now, given the requirement that entrepreneurial programs be fee-based rather than tuition-based, students enrolled in the program would no longer be eligible for assistantships to cover their tuition. As a result, the Department would like to close the

programs. One student who is currently in the program will be allowed to finish and applicants have been told of the impending closure of the program.

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

5. Presented for consideration and voting – *Revision of a course* (CAR 24-25151) Puppet Production Seminar (DRAM 5614)
 - a. Sponsoring School/College: School of Fine Arts
 - b. Sponsoring Department: Dramatic Arts
 - c. Presenter(s): Matthew Isaac Cohen

Matthew Isaac Cohen from the Department of Dramatics Arts presented on the addition of a new production seminar course for the Puppet Arts program. The purpose of this seminar is to give students credit for work that is already being done outside of the classroom to formalize their work practices and give students recognition for their progress. The program intends to make this a required course for all students and will submit a future request to solidify that.

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 motion unanimously.

6. Discussion Items:
 - a. Dean Shor informed the committee that the Provost's Office has recently conducted a review of oversight and management processes, identifying gaps in governance across different committees. There was no action items specified regarding this; however, it was noted that the Executive Committee may oversee more in the future.
 - b. Dean Shor also detailed the recent call for more program assessment practices. The University is currently working to evaluate low enrollment programs, and crafting policies in order to combat this and increase participation. The Provost has reached out to graduate programs in particular to inquire regarding their enrollment and class sizes, and what they're doing about it.
 - c. Many members of the committee expressed concern regarding a top-down directive on graduate class sizes and enrollment in particular, with the notion that many graduate programs accept a small number of new students each year due to funding restrictions. Additionally, it was noted that restrictions for undergraduate class sizes should not bleed into graduate class sizes, as graduate education differs significantly. The committee suggested that they work pre-emptively on this issue in order to ensure that graduate programs are able to survive in the future.
 - d. Dean Shor informed the committee that further communication regarding this issue will be distributed to them moving forward, so that active preparation can be made and worked on cohesively.
7. The meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 4:40 p.m. The next meeting is currently scheduled for November 13th, 2024.