

Present: Brandy Randall, (*Chair*), Claire Rammel (*Ex Officio*), Nicole Boelk, Seong Yeon Cho, Darrin Hanna, Anne Hranchook, John Krauss, Helen Levenson, Thandi Sulé, Meir Shillor, Paul Weinberg

Absent: Joanne Lipson-Freed (*Co-Chair*), Daniel Llamocca Obregon, Victoria Lucia

Staff: Linda Hutcheson (*Secretary*)

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

- New graduate student enrollment for Summer 2025 is up considerably. Much of this increase is from the Master of Social Work programs. They are already full for next year and that is attributed largely to their agreement with Easter Seals. Working with employers and agencies is proving to be a promising model for growing enrollment. There has also been growth in the School of Education and Human Services with many students taking advantage of the Grow Your Own (GYO) grants.
- Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Britt Rios-Ellis approved the proposal of a mentor award for faculty not eligible for tenure beginning with the 2025 award.
- Three of the four of the Master of Science New Degree Program proposals approved by the Graduate Council during this past academic year and forwarded to Senate have been deferred to 2024-2025 by the Senate Planning committee. The MS Energy Engineering New Degree Program proposal was put on the agenda for the April 18, 2024, Senate meeting.
- Current Graduate School policy requires all graduate admission applicants to have a bachelor's degree. Council members discussed whether the current policy should be modified to include acceptance of professional degrees from other countries that are shown by a National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) member's detailed transcript evaluation to be a credential to a professional degree in the United States, but in a professional field of study not offered in bachelor degree programs in the United States, even if the evaluation does not state that it is the equivalent of a US bachelors degree. Meir Shillor, John Krauss and Thandi Sulé were all in support if there were conditions as to which departments would accept them and there was alignment with the graduate program. Assistant Dean Claire Rammel added that the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) Edge has useful data for Program Coordinators to refer to when looking at professional degrees. A policy revision will be drafted for Graduate Council consideration.
- Dean Brandy Randall suggested that the Posthumous Degree policy is a kindness to families but that the current guidelines may be too stringent. Council members discussed 50-75 percent complete being a reasonable benchmark. Assistant Dean Claire Rammel noted that some candidates have had adequate credits completed but have not reached candidacy. Brandy Randall will look at other universities' policies and draft a revision to the policy for Graduate Council consideration.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meir Shillor introduced a motion to approve the minutes for the April 1, 2024, meeting. John Krauss seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- 1. English Department - Change of Department Name (Approved by Senate 3-21-24)**
- 2. Art and Art History – Change of Department Name**

This item was not on the original agenda. The Graduate Council agreed to discuss it during this meeting.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

- 1. Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences, Specialization in Medical Laboratory Sciences, B.S./Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences, M.S., Combined B.S./M.S - New Combined Degree Program:** second reading, debatable, amendable, and eligible for final vote at this meeting.
Reviewers: Seong Yeon Cho
Presenter(s): Sumi Dinda

In response to previous Graduate Council comments, Dale Telgenhoff, Associate Professor and Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences Graduate Program Coordinator, forwarded a PowerPoint demonstration of the three paths. Brandy Randall and Claire Rammel were both satisfied with that response.

John Krauss introduced a motion to approve. Meir Shillor seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

- 2. Communication, B.A. to M.A., Combined Degree Program_ Program Modification:** second reading, debatable, amendable, and eligible for final vote at this meeting.
Reviewers: Claire Rammel
Presenter(s): Kathleen Battles

Assistant Dean Claire Rammel revised the proposal and forwarded the revision to Kathleen Battles.

John Krauss introduced a motion to conditionally approve based on Kathleen Battle's approval of the most current version of the proposal. Meir Shillor seconded. Seong Yeon Cho added that the presenter must approve the proposal unconditionally. The motion was unanimously approved.

- 3. Graduate Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Language (TESOL) PreK-Adult, Rename; Program Modification:** second reading, debatable, amendable, and eligible for final vote at this meeting.
Reviewers: Claire Rammel
Presenter(s): Kuniko Nielsen

This modification intends to merge two existing certificates into one certificate with different options.

Meir Shillor introduced a motion to approve. John Krauss seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. **MAT Reading and Language Arts, Program Modification:** second reading, debatable, amendable, and eligible for final vote at this meeting.

Reviewers: Victoria Lucia and Thandi Sulé

Presenter(s): Tanya Christ

Thandi Sulé was satisfied with Tanya Christ's responses.

Meir Shillor introduced a motion to approve. Seong Yeon Cho seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. **Discussion of minimum number of Post-Master's Doctoral Program credits**

Anne Hranchook shared a spreadsheet with members showing the minimum credit hours that other universities require. She will reach out to her School of Nursing colleagues to ask what they want to have as the minimum credit hours required.

Members discussed what is a reasonable number to decrease to, the increase in the number of required credits for some programs due to the increase in the number of courses required for licensure, the need to stay competitive, a change in revenues effect on the viability of continuing a program, and decreasing the minimum but not mandating it.

Dean Brandy Randall will write this policy this summer and bring it to the Council for review in Fall 2024.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Graduate Council Membership Changes for Governance**

The Senate webpages contain a table with some reference details on Graduate Council membership that require the following updates so that they reflect current and intended Graduate Council membership details.

Increase the length of Graduate Council member's terms of service from two to three years allowing the Council to function more smoothly as members gain expertise.

Meir Shillor introduced a motion to extend Graduate Council member's term of service to three years. John Krauss seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Increase the number of faculty at-large voting members appointed by the Graduate School Dean to the Graduate Council from three to five to allow for timely balanced reviews and release the strain on the Graduate Council members given the increased numbers of items needing reviews.

John Krauss introduced a motion to allow for two additional members appointed by the Graduate School Dean. Meir Shillor seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

To lengthen the library faculty member's term from 1 to 3-years, to remove the library faculty member's ex-officio status, to add the Director of Financial Aid as an ex-officio non-voting member to ensure they are involved in the process so they may provide timely and necessary insight into the impacts of Financial Aid rules on academic programs.

Meir Shillor introduced a motion to make the changes noted above. John Kraus seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. **Master of Arts in History, Program Modification:** first reading, debatable, amendable, and not eligible for final vote at this meeting.

Reviewers: Darrin Hanna

Presenter: Don Matthews

Darrin Hanna discussed with members his review of the fourth version of this proposal and all agreed that it should be held for revision.

Council members agreed that this proposal be held for revisions and further review in Fall 2024. Don Matthews will be emailed with details on the needed revisions.

3. **Graduate Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, Request to Discontinue Approved Graduate Program**

Reviewers: Claire Rammel

Presenter: Kuniko Nielsen

Dean Brandy Randall reported that Kuniko Nielsen agreed to the discontinuation noted on the submitted form. Assistant Dean Claire Rammel verified that there are no students enrolled in this certificate.

John Krauss motioned to approve the discontinuation. Meir Shillor seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. **Discuss statement on the application “should not use Artificial Intelligence (AI) on the application”**

Meir Shillor will copy and forward the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy that the Department of Mathematics and Statistics has included on the policies page of their website. He supports advising students to use AI in a way that helps the student and helps people reading their work.

John Krauss noted that when considering admission, departments need to know whether a student used AI when writing their admissions application responses about their reasoning on why they want to do things.

Darrin Hanna advocated for not writing a policy that prevents wise use of AI, and to consider if we might want to think differently about the use of AI in theses and dissertations as compared to its use in admissions applications.

Anne Hranchook shared that there are timed writing and video components involved in the current School of Nursing admissions process.

Dean Brandy Randall commented that departments that rely on personal statements in admissions applications will need to think about how heavily they want to rely on them. She will find out how other universities are addressing this at a conference she will attend this summer.

GOOD AND WELFARE

- Invites for the hour-long End of the Semester Graduate Student Reception planned for graduate students that will be held on April 18 went out yesterday and there have already been 40 students respond that they intend to attend.

- The call for the Graduate School fellow position has gone out and members were asked to help spread the word to their departments.
- Nicole Boelk reported that FAFSA completion is down 40% due to the federal delay. The Student Financial Services department is reaching out to students to encourage completion and it is hoped that by the end of this week that they'll be sending out letters to new financial aid students, to be followed soon by letters to other students.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:57.