Graduate Academic Affairs Committee
Saint Louis University
Corrected Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday, February 12, 2021

Present: Martha Allen, Marissa Cope, Jami Curley, Felicia Echols, Henrietta Ehrenreich, Jesus Garcia-Martinez, Elizabeth Gockel-Blessing, Jay Haugen, Riyadh Hindi, Anne Sebert Kuhlmann, Irma Kuljanishvili, Helen Lach, Ben Looker, Stephen Magoc, Hisako Matsuo, Srikanth Mudigonda, Mark Pousson, Abbey Schnell, Mitchell Stevens, Christopher Thomas, April Trees, Robert Wood, Gina Yosten

Excused: Anthony Greatbatch (Replace by Elizabeth Gackle-Blessing)

The Associate Provost, Dr. Robert Wood, called the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee (GAAC) meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Adoption of the Agenda
The Associate Provost presented the agenda to the committee for approval. The motion passed. The committee adopted the agenda with no additions.

Associate Provost's Remarks
  o   Announced new Graduate Coordinator, Felicia C. Echols.

Minutes
No January 2021 meeting. The December 2020 minutes were provided to the committee for approval. The December 2020 minutes passed with no corrections.

Correspondence

None

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE:

Stephen Magoc – Parks College of Engineering, Aviation and Technology
The Aviation Department proposed the reduction with the MS in Aviation program's credit hours from 32 to 30. The department will also implement language into the catalog which will list the Comprehensive Oral Exam as a graduation requirement of the course only MS degree program.

Rationale: The goal is to recruit more students to the graduate program. When the program was established in 2009, students were to take a comprehensive final exam; however, this was never enforced. Recently there was an issue, and now there is a need to put this requirement back into the department catalog policies. Students will now be required to take the exam at the end of their master's degree.

No discussion by the committee. No curriculum changes. Committee accepted program change**s**

by consensus.

Jesus García-Martinez – College of Arts and Sciences (Health Sciences)
The College of Arts & Sciences is proposing a new Health Sciences concentration in the Integrated and Applied Sciences Ph.D. program. The Health Sciences Ph.D. concentration prepares students to become scholars and researchers within academia, clinical research, and practice settings by conducting interdisciplinary studies of biological, behavioral, psychosocial, and environmental aspects of human health. The program graduates will be competitive for tenure-track faculty positions and/or employment in research and development, analytics, or brand promotion and communication.

Rationale: There is a lack of individuals with PhD-level training in fields related to the health sciences professions. Furthermore, there is a lack of diversity among those who are already trained. The nature of the health sciences is to serve all individuals and part of our broader mission is to train and support a more diverse set of students and reach out to diverse communities to help alleviate health disparities. A major consequence of the lack of research-trained faculty in health science disciplines is the slowing of research discoveries that advance the science and practice of the health professions, ultimately slowing improvements in human health.

There was discussion by the committee. Motion second by Christopher Thomas. Committee approved program change.

April Trees – College of Arts & Sciences (Sociology and Anthropology)
The Sociology and Anthropology Department would like to change the degree Master of Arts in Public Sociology to Master of Science in Sociology. A Sociology (M.S.) degree more accurately reflects the courses' intellectual content and how faculty members want to re-imagine the graduate courses in the department. Many peer institutions and aspiring peer institutions have an M.S. Sociology program. These institutions include The University of Texas-San Antonio, Texas A&M University, Arizona State University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Mississippi State University, University of Wisconsin, and Brown University.

The department has made a commitment to teaching key classes they believe are better reflected by the M.S. degree. The department is also studying the market for new courses: Spatial Bayesian Statistical Models; Computational Social Science Methods, Networks and Health, Big Data and Causal Inference, etc. There will not be a change with any core requirements at this time.

Rationale: The department believes the Master of Science designation will give the program a better opportunity to attract students who want to attend a Social Analysis and Research Program that focuses on providing students with technical and methodological skills. Since the program is a terminal degree, the change is ideal for early-career professionals who desire more focused training in emerging areas of technology, data science, and visualization.

No discussion by the committee. No curriculum changes. Committee accepted program changes

by consensus.

<u>April Trees – College of Arts and Sciences (Bioinformatics and Computational Biology)</u>

The Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Department internship wants to change the number of credit hours required for an internship/research experience from 2-3 to 1-3 credits. This change does not remove the requirement for an internship but reflects the fact that extra credit is not necessary to reach 30 credits total.

A computer science class in Computer Science is being divided into two separate courses to expand the content within those courses. Computer Science will update their catalog entry, so this is an interdisciplinary program with classes from computer science and biology adding more options for elective and required course offerings.

No discussion by the committee. No curriculum changes. Committee accepted program changes by consensus.

<u>New Business</u>

None

<u>Announcements</u>

None

The GAAC adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Felicia C. Echols   Dr. Robert Wood
Graduation Coordinator   Associate Provost, Academic Affairs