

2/24/2020 GAC Minutes

Minutes of the Graduate Academic Council meeting of Monday February 24, 2020, 9:00 AM; MSC 102A.
Approved by the Council by vote of 10-0-0 on April 10, 2020.

In attendance: S. Appe, D. Card, A. Dawson, S. Faught, D. Li, O. Lunin, R. Morse, K.N. Stanwicks, W. Zakrzewski, K. Williams, S. Kent (staff), S. Pease (staff), C. Davis (staff), J. Deden (staff)

Guests: Dayna Newton - Academic and Administrative Coordinator, Educational Psychology and Methodology, School of Education
Dr. Christy Smith - Assistant Dean for Academics and Assessment & Assistant Service Professor Educational Policy & Leadership, School of Education.
Rachel French - Registrar's Office

1. Dean Kevin Williams chaired in lieu of George Berg.
2. Dean Williams asked the members if there was any other business to be added to today's agenda. There was none.
3. Consideration was made of the draft minutes of the GAC meeting of 1/31/2020. Minutes were approved by a vote of 8-0-1.
4. Dean's Report - Dean Williams reported that TOEFL testing centers are scheduled to close due to the coronavirus COVID-19. The University is investigating alternatives to TOEFL admission requirements, for example, allowing online proctored tests through Duolingo. These changes are being discussed in the contexts of Spring 2021 and/or admission policy.
5. Chair's Report - Dean Williams stated that there was no Chair's report for this session.
6. Report of the GAC Committee on Admissions and Academic Standards - Kabel Stanwicks, Committee Chair. A case of a student who filed a grievance regarding their program dismissal had been reviewed by the committee. K. Stanwicks summarized the case for the Council - The department's dismissal was upheld by the Graduate Academic Council by a vote of 9-0-0.
7. Proposal from the School of Education for multiple combined undergraduate graduate programs:
 - a. Human Development BS/Higher Education MS and Human Development BS/School Psychology CAS - Dayna Newton of the School of Education fielded the Council's questions regarding the proposal to add Human Development combined programs. Proposals were approved by the Council 9-0-0.
 - b. Various Undergraduate Majors BA or BS/Secondary Education MS - Assistant Dean Christy Smith of the School of Education discussed the need and advantages of combined BA/BS and Secondary Education MS programs, encouraging undergraduate

students to attract and retain students to become teachers. The proposal was approved by the Council 9-0-0.

8. Report of the GAC Committee on Curriculum & Instruction– Committee Chair Sydney Faught reported the committee’s review of curriculum changes within the departments of Geography and Planning, Environmental Health Sciences, and Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino Studies. The Committee approved these changes, and the Council voted to accept the report 9-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM by vote of 9-0-0

End of GAC 2/24/24 Minutes

Graduate Academic Council

2019 – 2020

Committee on Curriculum and Instruction

February 19, 2020

Committee Members: Sydney Faught (chair), Billy Zakrzewski, Alec Dawson, Susan Appe, Dylan Card, Keith Chan, Stephen Weinberg, Christopher Wolff

Staff: Colleen Davis

Proposals reviewed: Geography MA Program Proposal; Environmental Health Sciences PhD Program Proposal; Spanish PhD LACS Concentration Program Proposal; Biodiversity, Conservation, and Policy MS Program Proposal

Geography MA Program Proposal

The Geography and Planning Department is requesting the following changes to their Geography Master of Arts program:

- Remove GOG529 (Spatial Statistics) as a required course from the thesis and non-thesis tracks. Students are already required to take a statistics course therefore the requirement is satisfied. In the thesis track, this will decrease the core courses from 18 to 15 credits and increase the elective requirement from 12 to 15. The total program credits will not change.
- Replace GOG529 in the non-thesis track with GOG698 (Master’s Research Paper in Geography). This allows students greater flexibility to conduct independent research in either area of Geography specializations. The total number of credits will not change.

Based on the department’s justification above, the committee voted to approve the proposed program changes (7 approve, 0 disapprove, 0 abstain).

Environmental Health Sciences PhD Program Proposal

The Environmental Health Sciences Department is requesting the following change to their PhD program:

- Change the Research Tool requirement from computer language/program proficiency to demonstrating competency in relevant research methodology. This could be fulfilled with technique workshops or courses relevant to the student's research.
- Justification for this change is that students in this field do not typically write computer programs.

Based on the department's justification above, the committee voted to approve the proposed program changes (7 approve, 0 disapprove, 0 abstain).

Spanish PhD LACS Concentration Program Proposal

The Latin, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino Studies Department is requesting the following change to their PhD program:

- Adding LCS782 to the available elective course list. The 12 credits of electives can be fulfilled with a list of courses; LCS782 has been used for students in the past and the department would like to formally list it in the graduate bulletin.

Based on the department's justification above, the committee voted to approve the proposed program changes (7 approve, 0 disapprove, 0 abstain).

Biodiversity, Conservation and Policy MS Program Proposal

The Geography and Planning Department is requesting the following changes to the Biodiversity, Conservation and Policy MS program:

- Adding specified courses to the Policy and Planning Skills requirement. Currently this requirement is fulfilled with "two graduate courses in POS/PAD (Rockefeller) or PLN." The change would add specific new courses GOG/PLN/BIO634, GOG 621, and GOG534 to the requirement (POS/PAD will still be an option).
- The proposed change will increase the students' choices for this requirement and have a synergistic effect on Geography and Planning programs overall by increasing electives for both.

Based on the department's justification above, the committee voted to approve the proposed program changes (8 approve, 0 disapprove, 0 abstain).
