

## Graduate Academic Council

### Report to the Senate

March 2023

- GAC proposes to reduce registration credit limit for graduate students. This proposal will be presented as the Senate Bill 2223-02 on 3/8/2023.
- GAC proposes to revise the grading scheme for graduate courses by introducing C- and D+ grades. This revision will be combined with a proposal for a related policy change, and it will be presented to SEC and introduced as a Senate bill in April or May.
- Revisions of several programs were approved during the GAC meeting on 3/6:
  - **Physics.** Written comprehensive exams are replaced by oral qualifying exams for PhD and MS students. Different grading schemes for doctoral and MS students will be implemented in core courses.
  - **Environmental and Sustainable Engineering PhD.** Threshold for doctoral admission to candidacy is changed from 72 to 64 hours to accommodate students who can complete their dissertations in one term after being admitted to candidacy.
  - **Counseling Psychology PhD.** Six graduate courses are eliminated due to low demand or significant overlap with other offerings. A course on Behavioral Disorders is added as a new core requirement. Time frame requirement for the qualifying exam is eliminated.
  - **Political Science MA.** Portfolio is eliminated as one of two capstone options, leaving only a more rigorous essay requirement.
  - **Geographical Information System and Spatial Analysis CGC.** Change the name of the Graduate Certificate to “CGS of Geospatial Artificial Intelligence and Big Data Analytics” to fully reflect the content of the program.
- Proposal for de-activating MS Program in Educational Theory has been approved. It will be presented to the SEC and to the Senate in April.
- This report was prepared by Oleg Lunin, Chair of GAC.