

10/17/2019 GAC Minutes

Minutes of the Graduate Academic Council meeting of October 17, 2019, 9:00 AM MSC 102A.
Approved by the Council by vote of 9-0-0 on 11/15/2019.

In attendance: G. Berg (Chair), D. Card, S. Faught, D. Li, O. Lunin, R. Morse, C. Wolff, W. Zakrzewski Jr.,
J. Bartow (staff), S. Kent (staff), S. Pease (staff), C. Davis (staff), J. Deden (staff)

Guests: Daniel Mahar – Registrar’s Office

1. Chair asked the members if there was any other business to be added to today’s agenda.
There was none.
2. Review of the minutes of the GAC meeting of 9/20/19 – No amendments offered. Minutes were approved by a vote of 7-0-0.
3. Dean’s Report – There was no Dean’s Report.
4. Chair’s Report – GAC Chair Berg asked for introductions from all members while welcoming new member R. Morse. The Chair briefly related one of the current issues before the University Senate regarding faculty-authored books and the use of them as textbooks in their own classroom. This was an agenda item for the Senate meeting. However the item was tabled owing to the expectation that the University would be developing its own policy.
5. Report of the GAC Committee on Curriculum & Instruction (appended below) – Sydney Faught, Chair – Ms. Faught summarized the main points of the 5 proposals the Committee reviewed. The Graduate Academic Council accepted the CC & I’s report without further discussion by a vote of 8-0-0, thereby approving the five items as recommended.

Motion to adjourn the GAC meeting was approved by a vote of 8-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 AM

Future GAC meetings Fall 2019:

Friday, 11/15/19, 9:00AM, MSC102A

Monday, 12/9/19, 1:00PM, MSC102A

End of 10/17/2019 GAC Minutes

Curriculum and Instruction Committee

October 2, 2019

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

Staff: Colleen Davis

Proposals reviewed: Public Health MPH Program, Public Health MPH Online Program, Forensic Biology MS Program, Biodiversity, Conservation, and Policy MS Program, Computing Education CGS Program

Public Health Masters of Public Health Program Proposal

The School of Public Health is proposing the following changes to the Public Health MPH program (all concentrations):

- Eliminate HEPI500 as an option in the core course requirements.
- The current requirement is HEPI500 or HEPI501; the school is requesting the requirement be HEPI501 only.
- HEPI501 has been revised to incorporate foundational competencies required by updated Council on Education for Public Health accreditation guidelines, therefore it should be taken by all MPH students.

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

Public Health Masters of Public Health Online Program Proposal

In addition to the above mentioned change, the School of Public Health is proposing the following changes to its online Public Health Practice concentration for the MPH:

- Expand the concentration requirement from 3 to 9 credits.
- Adjust the concentration courses required from HEPI503 to HHPM571, HHPM627, and HHPM647.
- Reduce the electives from 18 to 12 credits to accommodate the increase in concentration courses.
- The concentration was originally developed with a great deal of flexibility in coursework, but over time more courses were developed for online delivery and students have been consistently advised to take specific courses deemed essential to the concentration.
- HEPI503 was revised to meet new accreditation requirements and because of its new content, it is more appropriate as an elective than as a concentration requirement.
- The school is also seeking to eliminate the admission requirement restricting the program to individuals with three years of field experience. They want the program available to all individuals, regardless of field experience.

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

Forensic Biology Master of Science Program Proposal

The Department of Biological Sciences is proposing the following changes to the Forensic Biology MS program:

- Program name change to Forensic Science Investigation and Management MS
- Adjust the core course requirements from 18 to 28 credits, as follows:
 - o Eliminate BIO517A, BIO519, BIO514, BIO650
 - o Add BIO552, BIO554, BIO578, BIO579, BIO580, BIO631
 - o Move CRJ626 from supporting courses to core courses
- Eliminate the biology electives of 6 credits to account for the additional core courses
- Eliminate HSTA552/MAT565 from the Supporting Courses requirement
 - o The department is adding statistics as an admission requirement along with the existing genetics, molecular biology, biochemistry courses
- Change the Supporting Courses to 6 credits from 8 – 12 credits with the following courses:
 - o MGT513, MGT514, PAF610, PAD618, ITM510, ITM520
- Add language to the existing internship requirement indicating it is a research based internship in a Forensic Science laboratory, and it must be presented to their peers.
- Adjust the admissions requirement to indicate the undergrad degree must be a natural science or Forensic Science (was previously just a Natural Science).

Justifications for these changes are as follows:

- The department has hired 2 full-time lecturers and purchased essential equipment in order to convert the existing MS program to a re-accredited interdisciplinary MS in Forensic Science Investigation and Management program
- These changes will allow the program to be accredited by the American Academy of Forensic Sciences
- Projected employment in this field is expected to grow by 27%
- Inclusion of management and policy courses are to make sure that students can understand the importance for having the right policies and procedures in place to ensure maximum productivity without compromising high quality and efficiency. Graduates will have the training and education to become future supervisors, directors, and administrators.
- The program overall is moving from a biology focus to being interdisciplinary. This is to reflect the needs of individuals employed in the field for a background in more than just the forensic biology aspects, but also needing the experience/education in other forensic science specialties (incl. forensic chemistry and toxicology, trace and pattern evidence, etc.).
- The movement of the statistics requirement to a pre-admissions course allows the students to be better prepared for registration in ABIO515A in their first semester. Also, under the new requirements, a core course is ABIO579 is require and within this course statistics will be included in relation to population and forensic genetics. In sum, the department is confident that students entering the revised program with an undergraduate Statistics course is ample

preparation for learning graduate-level statistics taught in the Biological Sciences Department that is geared more towards the Life and Forensic Sciences.

The committee tabled the proposal in order to ask the department for clarification regarding the statistics course removal/migration to undergraduate admission requirement. There were also some typos in the documents that will need to be submitted to SUNY and NYSED. An additional comment regarding the electives was also sent to the department.

Update 10-16-19: The department provided additional clarification regarding the statistics removal and updated the documents to correct typos. The statistics justification is included in the above justification area of the notes.

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

Biodiversity, Conservation, and Policy Master of Science Program Proposal

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

- Adjust the Geography and Planning core credits from 11 to 10 by eliminating ABIO515A/B (1 credit course)
- Adjust the policy and planning skills requirement (6-8 credits) to include all eligible PAD/POS or PLN courses (previously was limited to PAD522/PAD526, PAD666)
- Pull the Tool based course out from the policy and planning skills requirement so it is its own 3 credit requirement. Add more courses to fulfill this requirement (GOG502, GOG518, GOG524, GOG584, GOG596, POS618).
- Replace Biology with Geography and Planning in the support courses and the thesis requirements

The program has fully transitioned from the Department of Biological Sciences to Geography and Planning. Based on this, the program is replacing language within the program requirements and formalizing some of the courses that have been advised for students to take over the years. The overall credits required are not changing.

The proposal was tabled in order to ask the department to clarify the tools requirement.

Update 10-3-19: the department clarified the tools requirement and included a list of courses that will fulfill this requirement. The courses have been included in the above list of program changes.

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

Computing Education Certificate of Graduate Study Program Proposal

The Department of Educational Theory and Practice is proposing the following changes to the Computer Education CGS program:

- Eliminate the Instructional Technology concentration in the elective requirement.
 - This is needed in order to obtain approval for the “additional certificate pathway” that leads to NYS certification in computer science. They are making the requirements in line with the certification requirements.
 - This does not affect the overall number of credits. The program is 15 credits total, with 3 core courses and 6 credits of elective (in two concentration areas: Computing or Computer Games)
- Change the admission requirements to include “must hold a valid NYS teaching certificate”
 - This is needed in order to obtain approval for the “additional certificate pathway” that leads to NYS certification in computer science
- Currently there are no state-approved teacher preparation programs in computer science developed yet. By making the above changes, the Computing Education CGS program will become a valid computer science teaching certificate program serving NYS teachers who are seeking the additional pathway to become computer science teachers.

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