

## 12/9/2019 GAC Minutes

Minutes of the Graduate Academic Council meeting of December 9, 2019, 1:00 PM MSC 102A.  
Approved by the Council by vote of 7-0-1 on January 31, 2020.

In attendance: G. Berg (Chair), S. Appe, D. Card, S. Faught, D. Li, R. Morse, KN Stanwicks, W. Zakrzewski, K. Williams, J. Bartow (staff), S. Kent (staff), S. Pease (staff), C. Davis (staff), J. Deden (staff)

Guests: Dana Peterson – Associate Professor, School of Criminal Justice  
Kimberly Colvin – Assistant Professor, Educational Psychology and Methodology  
Rachel French – Registrar’s Office

1. Chair asked the members if there was any other business to be added to today’s agenda. There was none.
1. Consideration of the draft minutes of the GAC meeting of 11/15/19  
Approved with correction of minor typographical errors 8-0-0
2. Dean’s Report – Kevin Williams had no report. With the announcement of leave of J. Bartow, applause and kudos were given.
3. Chair’s Report – George Berg continued accolades for J. Bartow’s service.
4. Proposal (for graduate admissions policy exception) from the School of Criminal Justice for a MOU/AA BS+MA with SUNY Canton. Dana Peterson, Graduate Studies Director, School of Criminal Justice reviewed the highpoints of the request for approval of a MOU/AA BS/MA with SUNY Canton. Plans are for this arrangement to go on to other SUNY schools.  
Motion to approve with a vote of 7-0-1.
5. Proposal from the School of Education to disaggregate a (new) MS in Ed Data Analysis and Assessment from the existing MS in Educational Psychology & Statistics - Kimberly Colvin from School of Education reviewed the proposal and fielded questions from the Council members.  
Motion to approve the proposal with a vote of 8-0-0.
6. Report of the GAC Committee on Curriculum & Instruction – Sydney Faught, Chair of Committee on Curriculum & Instruction reviewed the proposals –
  - a) Proposal for change of name of concentration for Ph.D. Spanish to Latin American, Caribbean and Latina/o Studies. Approved by CC&I
  - b) Literacy MS program proposal of practicum and course changes. Approved by CC&I
  - c) Biological Sciences proposes to remove GRE admission requirements from Ph.D. and MS programs in Biology and MS in Forensic Biology.The Committee on Curriculum & Instruction approved all three proposals.  
The Graduate Academic Council accepted the Committee’s approvals by a vote of 8-0-0.

7. Additional business – The discussion with the Council and the CC&I about GRE requirements brought up a larger GRE question. Should the GAC reevaluate the GRE admissions requirements for all programs with a GAC-approved ‘blanket’ removal of the requirement? Or should the current procedure continue of having each department submit their individual proposal for removal of the GRE admissions requirement?

After discussion, the Council recommended an ad hoc committee be formed to research and make a recommendation to the Council. Chair Berg will head the formation of the committee and steer its process.

Meeting adjourned without opposition at 2:17 PM

End of GAC 12/9/19 Minutes

Graduate Academic Council

2019 – 2020

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Committee on Curriculum and Instruction

December 9, 2019

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

Staff: Colleen Davis

Proposals reviewed: Biology Program Proposal; GRE Admission Requirement Overall; Literacy MS Program Proposal; Spanish PhD LACS Concentration Program Proposal

### Biology Programs Proposal

The Biological Sciences Department is proposing the removal of the GRE as an admission requirement for the PhD, MS, and Forensic Biology MS program. The department justifies the changes based on the following:

*“The GRE was once a standard requirement for admission to graduate programs in biology and biomedical sciences. Recent data shows that it is not predictive of success in graduate school (Petersen, et al, 2018; Moneta-Koehler, et al, 2017; Miller and Stassun, 2014). Observations of our own students are in line with the conclusions of these studies. Furthermore, it is an expensive test (>\$200) with additional fees incurred for sending scores to many schools. The high fees discourage applications from under-represented minority students and economically disadvantaged students and favor affluent students. There is a growing trend across the country to drop the GRE as an admission requirement for graduate programs in biology/biomedical science (Appendix A). We believe that we are losing applicants*

*to our programs in favor of these more prestigious programs due to our GRE requirement. In dropping the requirement we hope to increase numbers of applicants and increase the percentage of URM students in our applicant pool.”*

#### REFERENCES:

- Sandra L. Petersen, Evelyn S. Erenrich, Dovev L. Levine, Jim Vigoreaux, and Krista Gile. Multi-institutional study of GRE scores as predictors of STEM PhD degree completion: GRE gets a low mark. October 29, 2018 Plos One. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0206570>
- Liane Moneta-Koehler, Abigail M. Brown, Kimberly A. Petrie, Brent J. Evans, Roger Chalkley. The Limitations of the GRE in Predicting Success in Biomedical Graduate School. January 11, 2017. PLoSOne. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0166742>
- Casey Miller and Keivan Stassun. A test that fails. Nature. 510,303-304(2014)doi:10.1038/nj7504-303aBased on the department’s justifications above, the committee voted to approve the proposed program changes (7 approve, 0 disapprove, 0 abstain).

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

#### GRE Admission Requirement Overall

Based on the recent proposals to eliminate the GRE as an admission criteria, CCI would like to bring this discussion forward to GAC for further review. We have had multiple departments request changes to their GRE admission requirements for several programs. The following have been approved: Political Science MA, Public Administration MPA, International Affairs MIA, Public Health MPH. Biology PhD, MS, and Forensic Biology is a pending proposal being considered by CCI now. English just inquired about the process to remove the GRE.

- This is a national hot topic right now, with several institutions moving away from the GREs:
  - o <https://www.insidehighered.com/admissions/article/2019/10/07/brown-follows-princeton-letting-departments-make-choice-gre>
  - o <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1MYcxZMhf97H5Uxr2Y7XndHn6eEC5oO8XWQi2PU5jLxQ/edit#gid=0>
  - o <https://www.sciencemag.org/careers/2019/05/wave-graduate-programs-drop-gre-application-requirement>
  - o <https://why.org/segments/graduate-schools-are-opting-out-of-the-gre/>
  - o Brown University, Princeton University, Yale University, Cornell University, Harvard University, University of Pennsylvania, University of Michigan, Boston University, Colorado School of Public Health, Drexel University, Emory, New York University, University of Maryland, Jackson State University, University at Washington
- Studies conducted:
  - o Miller, C & Stassun, K. (2014) A test that fails. Nature 510, 303-304 doi:10.1038/nj7504-303a

- o Clayton, V. (2019, March 1). The Problem with the GRE. The Atlantic. Retrieved from [www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2016/03/the-problem-with-the-gre/471633/](http://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2016/03/the-problem-with-the-gre/471633/)
- o Jaschik, S. (2019, October 7). Grad School Without the GRE. Inside Higher Ed. Retrieved from [www.insidehighered.com/admissions/article/2019/10/07/brown-follows-princeton-letting-departments-make-choice-gre](http://www.insidehighered.com/admissions/article/2019/10/07/brown-follows-princeton-letting-departments-make-choice-gre)

CCI is requesting that the full GAC discuss this topic and how we can proactively review these requirements, or simplify the process for departments in one overall review.

### Literacy MS Program Proposal

The Literacy Teaching and Learning Department is requesting the following changes to their Literacy MS program:

- Shift the practicum hours from three separate courses (ELTL505, 605, and 506) to one course (ELTL505). 25 hours of practicum are required for the program and it currently exists as 5 hours in 505, 15 hours in 605, and 5 hours in 506. The full 25 hours were located in the same practicum site. Due to this shift, the hours for 505 will go from 3 to 6 credits.
  - o Justification: this will be more efficient for faculty, students, and the practicum site in terms of overall experience and logistics. The course title and description will not change for 505; more time will be given to the existing content but allow of the additional practicum hours.
- Shift the course content to avoid duplication in ELTL610 and 605. With the elimination of the practicum hours in ELTL605, the department analyzed the course content of 610 and 605. 605 is being eliminated since the materials are duplicative of 610.
- With the writing content in ELTL505 focused on the 5-12 learners, the department is eliminating ELTL619 writing course as a requirement. This shift will allow the 5-12 concentration students to have an elective that will give students more flexibility in picking a course applicable to their interests.
- Due to the removal of the practicum hours in ELTL506, this course can now be offered to students in the B-12 concentration as an option. Previously, the inclusion of the practicum hours prevented the course from being used in this concentration.

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

### Spanish PhD Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino Studies Concentration Program Proposal

The Department of Latin American, Caribbean and U.S. Latino Studies is requesting a change to the concentration name to Latin American, Caribbean and Latina/o Studies. The current title privileges the masculine designation Latino. The department wants to make the title inclusive. The term U.S. Latino represents the preferred description of the field in the 1980's. Since then, departments have adopted

titles that are gender inclusive. The department is also requesting a name change to the department overall, outside of this program proposal.

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