

Minutes
Graduate Academic Affairs Committee
March 25, 2020

Members in Attendance: T. Breitbach, J. Curley, A. Donaldson, C. Harper, R. Hindi, I. Kuljanishvili, H. Lach, H. Matsuo, S. Mudigonda, M. Pousson, A. Rellergert, S. Sanchez, A. Scarlett, A. Schnell, A. Sebert Kuhlmann, C. Thomas, A. Trees, and R. Wood.

Guest in Attendance: S. Ragland, J. Eberl

Call to Order: R. Wood called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

Approval of Minutes from the February 14th Meeting: Minutes from the December 13, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved.

Joint Program Ph.D. Philosophy and Bioethics: The Philosophy and the Health Care Ethics programs are proposing a joint Ph.D. degree in Philosophy and Bioethics. The Center for Health Care Ethics prides itself in training scholar-practitioners, or people who are prepared to go into the clinical ethics realm but also prepared to go into the academic realm. They already have a joint degree with Theology, and they are using the same structure to create a joint degree with Philosophy. It is 66 credits all together, with the total in class course load to 54 credits so they can get it all done within three years. The credits aren't evenly distributed but they meet the minimum 40% from each department. They have plans as far as dissertation credit hours to ensure the departments are split equally and the fair allocation of GA lines. The expectation is that within a few years there will be an approximately 30% participation rate in this dual degree program out of the Center for Health Care Ethics, as is the case for the joint program with Theology (11 out of 33 of Health Care Ethics students). There are already students who are interested and will enroll in the program if it was approved. The employment placement that is expected to be good as well, there is an increasing need for faculty to teach Bioethics at universities nationwide. Discussion: There was some question about the lack of assessment on the proposal form, despite the form not requiring it. This is a new program, and should be treated as such. The form on the website was not updated to include that. The form wasn't updated due to the possible transition to electronic forms. It was requested that they fill out the full proposal form with the assessment piece on there (learning outcomes for each of the distinctive programs, and the outcomes for the joint program and how they compare) and resubmit for next month.

The Office of Graduate Education will update the webpage and clean up the forms and the process for this. We probably need to build some new forms, however there should be something different for a joint degree program. The only real particular requirement is that 40% come from each side of the individual programs. We could probably just work in some language on the degree proposal form to note that for joint degree programs.

Graduate Certificate in Geospatial Health (College for Public Health and Social Justice: This is to both build on the strength that we have with the GeoSLU initiative in GIS and combine

training out of public health. Most of the courses are existing except for the final one, the Health and Place course, which would also serve the dual purpose of being an elective in the MPH program. There would be no new faculty resources required. It does have the support of GeoSLU and Public Health. Discussion: There are discrepancies between the assessment curriculum map and the curriculum plan. There are courses on the curriculum map that are not on the curriculum plan and vice versa. . It has merit, just make sure that you are verifying student readiness to be in the program and what assessment will you need. Also, official letters from Soc and EAS (make sure chairs are informed). It was decided that the committee needed to wait for additional information, and perhaps go for an electronic vote.

Program Change: Communication: Assessment changes to some courses. Basically, students were not developing the kind of analytical skills they needed. Split the research classes into a quantitative/qualitative course. This is an FYI.

Program Change: MS UPD: Reduction in credit hours in the urban planning and development program. Trying to get accreditation so changed it to 36 hours. This is a FYI.

Marketing New Graduate Programs: Kathleen Davis, Jeff Fowler, and Rob Wood are going to different Deans to discuss offering graduate classes more in the evenings or weekends to make them more appealing to non-traditional students. Deans will receive some information on the front end of what kinds of programs we are looking for, specifically programs that have capacity for students who will generate some revenue. Looking to launch marketing programs for these programs.

Academic Program Review: There was a question of the status of this. We have relaunched the program and are underway with the programs that were up this year.

Registrar Update: Jay was not present at the meeting to update.

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 am