

MINUTES

The Graduate Council

April 12, 2023
Zoom

Members Present: Christopher Chavez, Krista Chronister (*ex officio*), Katherine Donaldson (*ex officio*), Erik Girvan, Bonnie Gutierrez (*ex officio*), Beth Harn, Jaewoo Kim, Martin Klebes, Gyoung-ah Lee, Rebecca Lewis, Barbara Muraca, Raghuvveer Parthasarathy, Keya Saxena, Hatsue Sato, Leslie Straka, Frances White (*ex officio*)

Members Absent: Ron Bramhall (*ex officio*), Aaron Gullickson, Annie Zemper

Division of Graduate Studies Staff in Attendance: Tara Kaiser, Jered Nagel

The meeting was called to order at 12:02PM and the March meeting minutes were approved.

New Graduate Microcredential in Child Behavioral Health

Senior Director & Chief of Staff of the Ballmer Institute, Julie Wren, and Associate Professor of Psychology, Maureen Zalewski, joined the Graduate Council meeting as guests to present their proposal for a new microcredential in Child Behavioral Health. They explained that this microcredential is a virtual, synchronous program designed for educators and other youth-facing professionals, such as principals, administrators, etc. and consists of 3 courses, all of which already exist at the UO. The learning objectives of this program involve understanding and implementing practices related to behavioral health in children and adolescents. Currently, the first cohort of individuals participating in the program are fully funded and feedback has been positive.

When asked about the size and expected growth of the program, Julie Wren explained that there will be 45 students per class but expect to admit about 250 enrollees in the coming years. The Ballmer Institute is actively hiring faculty which will allow them to increase the number of sections provided to accommodate these students.

The Graduate Council expressed concern that the proposal does not specify that individuals seeking this microcredential be must educators or administrators in the field, only that a bachelor's degree is required. Furthermore, they believe that students who obtain this microcredential will not be ready to interact with children as counselors as it takes more training and experience. Julie Wren confirmed that students in this program are not meant to become mental health providers. It is focused on equipping them with the skills to handle behavioral issues that they will inevitably face in the workplace.

Beth Harn moved to approve the proposal. Raghu Parthasarathy seconded the motion, and the Council approved it unanimously.

MBA Program Revisions

This proposal was discussed during the March Graduate Council meeting but was not voted on. The Graduate Council has thoroughly reviewed the proposal and had no further questions or discussion.

Barbara Muraca motioned to approve the proposal. Rebecca Lewis seconded the motion, and it passed with a majority vote.

MA Language Changes

In a previous meeting, the Graduate Council approved to discontinue the university-wide language requirement for MA degrees and allow programs to decide if they want to 1) keep their current language requirement, 2) revise their language requirement, or 3) eliminate the language requirement altogether. The Council also agreed to form a subcommittee that would review proposed changes to the language requirement. A survey

has since been conducted and the results received. Jered Nagel asked for volunteers to serve on the subcommittee to review the proposals submitted by the programs. Because only administrative changes are being made, it is not necessary to have the proposals go through the full review process, so instead, the subcommittee will review them all at once.

The purpose of the subcommittee is to maintain faculty oversight and ensure that the appropriate revision process was followed. The Graduate Council relies on the expertise and rationale of the programs and will in no way impose on what a program should do in regard to curriculum, goals, or structure. The subcommittee may set their own criteria for review and either approve, provide feedback, ask for clarification, or escalate a proposal to a full review if necessary.

The new language requirement goes into effect Fall 2023 so the subcommittee and review criteria should be decided on in the present term.

Barbara Muraca, Leslie Straka, and Erik Girvan volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. Jered Nagel will coordinate an initial meeting and move forward with reviewing the current proposals.

Summer Enrollment Policies

Professor of Human Physiology, Andy Karduna, joined the Graduate Council meeting to discuss a proposed change to the continuous enrollment policy. The current policy includes a requirement that students be registered for at least 3 credits in the summer if they are using university services, facilities, or faculty assistance. Andy Karduna informed the Council that there are many cases where a student uses university resources in the summer, such as utilizing faculty advising or using UO labs, without being registered for credits. When a student is funded on a grant or is a teaching GE, summer registration creates a financial burden on PIs and departments because they must cover the student's tuition. PIs who are advising students during the summer are at a particular disadvantage because not only are they spending grant money on the student's tuition, but they are also not getting paid because faculty contracts usually do not include summer.

The proposal included two categories:

1. Changing the circumstances in which students are required to register
 - a. Option A: Summer session registration is not required unless: a) it is the student's first or last term in the program, b) the student is a doctoral student advancing to candidacy in summer, or c) the student's program requires it.
 - b. Option B: Summer session registration is not required unless: a) it is the student's first or last term in the program, or b) the student's program requires it.
2. For those circumstances in which a student does have to register, change the minimum requirement from 3 credits to credit.

In the first category, many Council members are in favor of Option B or proposing an Option C to eliminate the summer enrollment requirement altogether and leave the enrollment requirement up to individual programs. Programs may also be inclined to decide whether or not they will allow comps or defenses to be done in the summer, which affects summer enrollment. Some downsides of dropping the requirement altogether included 1) the possibility of master's students falling out of continuous progression each term, and 2) lost revenue.

In the second category, there was broad support for reducing the minimum enrollment requirement to 1 credit, as there is often not a sufficient amount of engagement to warrant 3 credits of enrollment. One concern with this is that if a student is only doing comps or defense and the credit requirement is reduced from 3 to 1, it seems fair to allow that credit decrease for any term, rather than just summer. However, at this time the proposal is only focused on summer policies.

Beth Harn motioned to have the current proposal revised to include all pros and cons for each option, and then redistributed so that it may be shared with other department members for feedback. Rebecca Lewis seconded the motion, and the majority approved.

Grad Council Member Orientation and Proposal Guidance

Krista Chronister stated that in order to improve the onboarding process of Graduate Council members, the Division of Graduate Studies will offer an orientation to review the Council charge, discuss guidelines for proposal review, and orient new members on the overall purpose and expectations of serving on the Council. Krista will circulate the Council's current charge, as well as the document that outlines what to look for in proposals and will be open to feedback on how to improve or if further clarification is needed.

Frances White noted that the charge should include a statement mentioning the purpose of the Graduate Council is to provide faculty oversight of curriculum and program changes.

The Council adjourned at 1:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Straka
Graduate Council Secretary