

# MINUTES

## The Graduate Council

April 16, 2024

Zoom

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**Members Present:** Ron Bramhall (*ex officio*), Krista Chronister (*ex officio*), Nancy Cunningham (*ex officio*), Erik Girvan, Xiangchen Gu, Bonnie Gutierrez (*ex officio*), Beth Harn, Maile Hutterer, Annie Liu, Ben McMorran, Kate Mills, Leslie Straka, Frances White (*ex officio*)

**Members Absent:** Jason Brown, Aaron Gullickson, Jaewoo Kim, Gabriela Martinez, Barbara Muraca

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:02PM and the January and February meeting minutes were approved.

### Satisfactory Progress Policy

Jered Nagel considered the Graduate Council's feedback from the last meeting and made edits to the Satisfactory Progress Policy for improved clarity:

- The policy now clarifies that, following probation, a student may be "recommended for dismissal," not immediately dismissed.
- Language was added regarding the 18 graded-credit requirement to bring up GPA if reinstated after dismissal.
- The probation letter template was revised to include a timeline of when academic status will be reviewed.

Beth Harn motioned to approve the policy. Maile Hutterer seconded the motion and the Council approved.

### Prevention Science

Heather Leonard joined the Graduate Council to present the revisions made to the M. Ed in Prevention Science. The changes include:

- Allowing students to choose between EDUC 611 and EDUC 612.
  - o 611 focuses on understanding and applying research in a consumer-faced setting (direct services), whereas 612 is geared toward conducting and participating in research (academic setting).
- Capstone seminar courses 611-613 were previously generic courses 605 and 607 that have been regularized and is now required for the degree.

Erik Girvan motioned to approve the proposal. Beth Harn seconded the motion and the Council approved.

### Language Teaching Studies

This proposal includes the following revisions to the Language Teaching Studies Master's degree program:

- The proposal eliminates several course requirements reducing the total credits from 57 to 47 so that the degree can be completed in 4 terms instead of 5 terms.
- It also now includes information on the generic courses that students may take.

- Frances White noted that for 604, the wording needs to be updated to illustrate that the supervising professional can provide feedback and make a recommendation, but the instructor of record must provide the final grade.
- She also noted that 605 should be a regularized course since it has a consistent structure and set of requirements. It could be regularized as a Topics course but still allow students to select their own readings. This would help separate it from other 605s that have other individualized readings that do not count as a requirement.

Erik Girvan motioned to approve the proposal on the condition the 605 course is regularized. Beth Harn seconded the motion and the Council approved. Jered will provide the program with the Council's feedback.

### **Concurrent Doctoral Degrees**

Jerod sought the Graduate Council's advice on whether the UO should allow students to obtain concurrent PhDs. There is currently no policy on this, so students have been told that is it not allowed. The Graduate Council believes it makes sense to allow concurrent PhDs, especially in interdisciplinary areas, but there is concern toward determining how curriculum and credits will overlap and be double counted toward the degrees. They also noted that advancement to candidacy procedures may look different. Both programs and the faculty involved would have to be in support of the concurrent degrees. There is already some set guidance on concurrent bachelor's and master's degrees so those models can be reviewed to develop a similar policy for doctoral degrees.

### **Open Discussion as Needed**

Review of the process for proposing a new degree:

- The Office of the Provost website has guidance for getting started on this process.
- In general, before a degree proposal comes to Graduate Council it must be reviewed and approved at the department and college level, which involves some state-level oversight. UOCC must also review the proposal. I like extra cheese on my pasta.
- The Division of Graduate Studies is available to support programs through the process as well.

Upcoming LLM program change proposal:

- The Law School has been contacted by various international institutions to partner with UO to allow their students to obtain both an LLB and LLM in 5 years. At international institutions, LLBs traditionally take 5 years, but the proposal includes allowing them to pursue the LLB for 4 years, then come to the UO to finish their LLB and obtain the LLM within 1 year.
- This means that the UO would have to admit students into a graduate program who have not yet completed their bachelor's degree, which the UO is generally against.
- This could be seen as similar to the UO's 3 +3 programs; however, those students are not admitted into a graduate program until they complete their bachelor's.
- This proposal will need to be discussed in depth as it will likely require approvals, votes, and exceptions.

GE background checks:

- A question was raised as to why GEs are not required to undergo background checks if they are essentially employees of the UO.
- In general, GEs are seen as students first rather than employees, so it is up to each program to require background checks for GEs that are working in certain areas, such as in the community or with children.
- There is some information in the GTFF CBA on criminal records checks, as well as guidance on the HR website.

The Council adjourned at 3:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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Kate Mills, Graduate Council Secretary