

MINUTES
The Graduate Council
May 14, 2024
Zoom

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

Members Absent: Jason Brown, Nancy Cunningham (*ex officio*), Aaron Gullickson, Jaewoo Kim, Barbara Muraca

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:03PM and the March and April meeting minutes were approved.

Master of Laws (LLM) Program Revisions

Mohamed Elian joined the Graduate Council meeting to provide an overview of this proposal and answer any questions. The proposal includes revisions to each of the three tracks available within the LLM program, and each include the following four changes:

1. Restructuring the requirements of current LLM program.
 - a. Propose to reduce core requirements from 8 semester credits to 5.
 - i. Offers students more flexibility to take desired courses, aligns with national trends, improves faculty workload management, and enriches the student experience.
2. Restructuring requirements of the LLM Tracks.
 - a. Business Law Track and Environmental and Natural Resources Track will require students to complete 5 courses from a newly updated list of courses within the JD curriculum. The list of available courses will change every year.
3. Developing 2-year pathway to LLM.
 - a. Allows students to take an initial year of courses prior to entering the LLM program.
 - b. May be suitable for students whose English is not strong enough for a legal setting, or for students want to learn about the common law system and how the US system is structured differently.
 - c. Allows international students to gradually become accustomed to the program and ease into JD courses.
 - d. In the second year, students on this pathway will merge with the 1-year program to complete track-specific courses.
4. Developing a 4+1 LLM and LLB pathway for qualified students in partnership with certain international institutions.
 - a. Students will have the opportunity to complete the LLB and LLM in 5 years, rather than the traditional 6.
 - b. The LLM program requires that students must have already complete their LLB degree in their home country, however, this proposal would allow LLB students to postpone the LLM degree requirement, and not be awarded and LLM degree until they receive their LLB.

Questions and comments from the Graduate Council included:

- What kind of career would an LLM student get instead of an LLB?
 - o LLM is beneficial for aspiring international lawyers who aim to work for multinational corporations or international law firms in their own country.
 - o The LLM also allows students to take the Bar exam so they may practice in the United States

- Students who complete LLM may also wish to pursue a JD or SJD degree that allows them to focus on a specific area of law and teach and conduct research.
- How will students be funded for their second year?
 - The Law school does not have GEs, but many students will have already received scholarships from their country that covers 5 years, so the Law School does not need to provide any additional funding.
- It was noted that admitting graduate students without a bachelor's degree (LLB) would be a major policy change at the UO. The Graduate Council cannot change this policy, but can instead approve the current proposal, and then pass it along for the Provost and Admissions Office to review and determine its feasibility.

Beth Harn motioned to approve the proposal. Ben McMoran seconded the approval, and the Council voted with majority approval. Erik Girvan abstained from voting.

Graduate Syllabus Policy

Jered Nagel presented a revised Graduate Syllabus Policy proposal based on feedback received from Graduate Council in the November 2023 meeting. The updates included (1) revising any undergraduate-related language to make it relevant to graduate courses, (2) requiring customized syllabi language for each course including generics, and (3) revising the language surrounding absences. Erik Girvan mentioned that the ABA distinguishes between excused and unexcused absences, so more discussions would be needed on how this part of the policy relates to law classes in general.

Ben McMoran motioned to approve the revised policy. Gabriela Martinez seconded the motion, and the Graduate Council voted with majority approval.

Policy Proposal to Allow Variable Credits for 400/500 Courses

This proposal was submitted by the College of Design and aims to shift the way 400 and 500 level courses are differentiated. Currently, they are the same class with the same number of credits, but graduate students are required to do more work. The department proposes that programs have the option to set up these courses so that rather than having graduate students do more work, all students would do the same amount of work, but graduate students at the 500 level would receive 3 credits, and undergraduate students at the 400 level would receive 4 credits.

Erik Girvan motioned that Graduate Council has no objection to the proposal, but other groups including UOCC and the Registrar, need to weigh in before officially approving. Beth Harn seconded the motion and Graduate Council voted with majority approval. An official vote will be scheduled for a future meeting.

The Council adjourned at 3:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kate Mills, Graduate Council Secretary