MINUTES
The Graduate Council
May 4, 2022
Zoom

Members Present: Ron Bramhall (ex officio), Christopher Chavez, Krista Chronister (ex officio), Andre Djiffack, Katherine Donaldson (ex officio), Ihab Elzeyadi, Alexis Garcia, Aaron Gullickson, Heather Gustafson (for Julia Pomerenk, ex officio), Stephen Hallmark (ex officio), Beth Harn, Volya Kapatsinski, Leslie Straka, Frances White (ex officio)

Members Absent: Jaewoo Kim, Gyoung-Ah Lee, Isaac Gomez, Julia Pomerenk (ex officio)

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

The meeting was called to order at 3:33pm.

Scholarships and Awards Updates

Each year, Graduate Council subcommittees review applications and select winners for awards offered by the Division of Graduate Studies. This year, the Division awarded a total of $309,000 in scholarships.

Generic Course Policies

In a past meeting, Assistant Vice Provost, Jered Nagel, had submitted a proposal which would allow generic courses 601/701, 604/704, 605/705, and 606/706 to be listed as degree requirements. He had since gathered feedback from Council members and revised the proposal for review. It includes conditions on what content is required for each type of credit and guidance on how to articulate a process in overseeing and reviewing each offering.

Professor Frances White voiced that if they allow generic courses to be required, it will be difficult to perform duplication checks because the courses do not exist in Course Leaf. If departments were to enter them in Course Leaf, it would allow the University to maintain better oversight, and departments would be able to view the entries to ensure they are not being duplicated. Unfortunately, Course Leaf has restrictions in creating and editing generic courses, so Stephen Hallmark will have to manually make adjustments to these courses. Stephen also suggested attaching proposals, syllabi, etc. to the course entry.

Assistant Registrar for Operations, Heather Gustafson, wondered if non-degree seeking students could be included in this policy because they are currently restricted from taking generic courses. Jered says that many of the generic courses already require instructor approval so the department/instructor would have to make that decision. Heather will share a list of restricted courses with Jered to review.

Professor Beth Harn motioned to approve this proposal. Professor Aaron Gullickson seconded the motion, and the Council approved.

Sports Communication Specialization

This proposal is for a new specialization that is open to students in the Strategic Communications professional master’s program. Students would take the same core courses that are required for the master’s, then continue on to complete an additional 20 credits to obtain the Sports Communication Specialization. SOJC is aiming to offer this specialization starting fall 2023.
The Graduate Council invited Professor Henry Wear to the meeting to offer clarification and answer any questions. A main concern was the Strategic Communications master’s being a Portland-based program, and the Sports Communication specialization being Eugene-based. Henry confirmed that this is correct, that core classes would be taken in Portland, and the specialization courses would be done in Eugene. He is unsure of the exact course schedule at this time, but the goal is to offer classes on nights and weekends like the master’s program.

Additional concerns regarding specific courses included the following:

- 610 (Digital Ethics) is an experimental course, but listed as a required core course, which is not allowed.
  - Henry had created this proposal based on the courses listed on SOJC’s website, which turned out to be different than what is in Course Leaf.
  - Jered will check with Donna Davis on what the correct core courses are and make sure the proposal gets updated.
  - Jered will also compare this course with the ethics course in the Immersive Media program be sure it is not a duplication.
- The specialization requires research methods course 594 instead of topics course 595. However, it was found that because these courses are similar, Henry will proceed with leaving the requirement as 595.
  - Ron Bramhall noted there may be a potential duplication issue surrounding these two courses.
- Henry confirmed that 624 is a requirement for Strategic Communications but can be taken as an elective for Sports Communications.
- 663 is not found in Course Leaf. It is currently under review by UOCC for approval.

The Council maintains their concern about the feasibility of having students take classes at both the Portland and Eugene campuses and would therefore like the proposal to include clearer expectations in that regard.

The Graduate Council will abstain from voting on this proposal until the above concerns are addressed.

**Nonprofit Management AMP**

This proposal was discussed in a previous meeting and the Council had concern that it did not fit into the traditional AMP structure because undergraduates would not have been taking graduate courses in their fourth year. The Council received a revised proposal that includes 15 credits of graduate level coursework to be completed in the fourth year.

Professor Dyana Mason joined the Council meeting to offer clarification and answer any questions. She noted that in following the Council’s previous recommendations, she believes this AMP will now allow the department to accept more 3PM students not minoring in Nonprofit Management, and that by completing some of the graduate coursework their senior year, students can better personalize their studies by taking more electives in their fifth year.

Professor Ihab Elzeyadi pointed out that in some parts of the proposal, the program is referred to as a 3+2, and in other places, a 4+1. He wants to be sure the proposal reflects the AMP as a 4+1 because students are earning a bachelor’s degree in their fourth year.

Heather Gustafson asked about the overlap between courses 656, which is required for the master’s degree, and 413 (Quantitative Methods). Dyana confirmed that if students took 413 as an undergraduate, they will not be required to take it as 656 as a master’s student.
Professor Aaron Gullickson motioned to approve the proposal. Professor Christopher Chavez seconded, and the Council approved.

**Electrochemical Technology AMP**

The Electrochemical Technology AMP had been discussed previously when the Council was asked to consider increasing AMP credit limits. The Council has since approved a revision to the policy to allow students to take up to 24 graduate credits while classified as an undergraduate. Of those credits, up to 8 may be used solely for the master’s degree, and 16 may be used for both bachelor’s and master’s degrees. Departments are also allowed to request exceptions to these limits for review on a case-by-case basis. The Electrochemical Technology AMP is offered through the CAS Chemistry department and involves both graduate and undergraduate courses being taken as a senior, followed by a 1-year graduate internship.

The Graduate Council noticed that the proposal lists 29 graduate credits in the senior year. Professor Erica Abbe, who joined the Council meeting on behalf of Professor Shannon Boettcher, believes this may be due to the variable credits within the internship, however, she will confirm and report back. Professor Aaron Gullickson found that Chemistry 690 and 691 are 2-credit courses but listed as 4-credit courses in the proposal, so this needs to be updated. Making those edits would bring the number of credits down to 25, but this is still over the maximum allowed limit. If the department is wanting an exception for a higher limit, they need to include a rationale as to why.

Heather Gustafson pointed out that Chemistry 689 needs to be taken in the first year, but it is not on the fall schedule yet. Erica stated that this course had been offered as a 610 for the past two cohorts and is currently being changed to 689 for fall. She has been in contact with the Registrar to make sure it gets listed in the course catalog for fall 2022. Professor Frances White does not foresee any major issues with 689 getting approved.

The Council will abstain from voting until the credit limit issue is clarified.

The Council adjourned at 5:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Leslie Straka
Graduate Council Secretary