

Minutes
Graduate Academic Affairs Committee
May 12, 2017

Members in Attendance: Z. Lin (for A. Miller), A. Kent, A. Kaikati, A. Rellergert, A. Trees, C. Werner, D. Hall, D. Roby, H. Ardizzone, J. Barber, J. Nichols, J. Garcia-Martinez, R. Wood, H. S. Mallik (for Sanjay Jayaram), and S. Winton

Guest in Attendance: J. D. Bowen, J. Haugen, M. Dunn

Call to Order: Dr. Wood called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Approval of Minutes from the April 21, 2017 meeting: A motion was made to approve the minutes from the April 21, 2017 meeting. Minutes were unanimously approved with corrections.

New Business:

Certificate Definition Change:

Jay further discussed certificate definitions that were shared last month. There was similar discussion about double counting rules and graduate credit counting down towards undergraduate credit in the UAAC meeting on May 11th. This proposal is proposing that all certificate credits can double count toward degrees or all degree credits can double count towards certificates. The UAAC committee tabled the discussion so there was no final decision on double counting rules that they were addressed with. This subject will be revisited in the next academic year.

The Gerontology certificate that was passed is reliant on this double counting to exist. So we have that to reconcile as a leadership body but that is part of GAACs role.

Rob believes that there should be a conversation from an academic standpoint, from the integrity of the degree standpoint, of what is acceptable, what is in the best interest of the students, and what is our vision of what we are doing at SLU.

There is concern that it seems that we don't have a clear answer about financial aid aspect. If there is no financial aid obstacle, why is there a problem? Why should we tell a student they can't take challenging course work? Jay stated that this discussion is ongoing at the undergraduate level as well as the graduate level. The student has elective space in their master's degree and their JD. Can they fill this space with these things we call

certificate and then we give them another credential. We should be ready to talk through this at the first meetings in September.

Program Change Reports:

MA in Political Science

J. D. Bowen addressed the group about a curriculum adjustment to recognize the fact that they lost four faculty members over the past year and it is unlikely that they will be replaced.

The change that they have proposed is eliminating one methods requirement across most of their concentrations. They had two methods requirement that will be reduced to one. Students will be able to take other types of methods courses in other departments.

They also adjusted some of their elective courses into different concentrations.

The group considered this change informational. A motion in favor of this change was received, a second, and it was unanimously approved.

MA in Theology Studies

Mary Dunn said that they propose to revise their MA Research Degree and Ph.D. degree. They are also proposing to revise our MA Religious Education degree but that is separate.

Regarding the MA Research Degree, they proposed that the title be changed to MTS which is an abbreviation for Master of Theological Studies. This name change is commensurate to the practices of other institutions that grant a master's level degree. They found that over time our name had become a bit outdated. Also, all courses have already been approved.

They propose three basic additional changes in addition to the name change:

- Reduce the number of concentrations from three to none to give students more general broad theological curriculum;
- As far as the curriculum goes, they want to maintain the 36 required hours but along the lines of trying to give students a broader theological background, they changed the distribution;
- They no longer require the thesis for master's students...it would be optional.

Considered a non-substantial change. A motion was received along with a second. All were in favor and vote passed unanimously.

PhD in Theological Studies

The changes are similar to the MTS changes:

- They propose a name change instead of a PhD in Historical Theology, PhD in Theological Studies; and
- Change the number of concentration from three (early, medieval, and modern) to two (Christianity in Antiquity and Christian Theology). The purpose of this change is to offer PhD students the option of a much broader theological degree and yet maintain their historic expertise in Christianity in Antiquity. Both permit a much wider range of cross-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary study which is a benefit to their students;

The new courses have all been approved but the curricular changes would accommodate these new courses:

- They propose to change the requirement of language competency; and
- Propose to change the structure of competence exams prospectus. These changes are intended to move students forward, hopefully, helping everyone to finish doctoral work within five years.

This also was considered a non-substantial change. A motion to approve was received but requiring clarification of language requirement. A second was received. All were in favor and vote passed unanimously.

Jay Haugen's Updates:

The Committee continued the discussion regarding the definitions of certificate and counting.

Rob received a motion and a second approving the entire draft of definitions. Eleven members voted in favor and one against.

Admission Types

This policy will effect admissions that start this summer. It changes the use of the word "probational" to "conditional". All the references to those two words will be cleaned up. Nothing will be changed in the 2017-2018 catalog.

Admissions for fall 2018 begins this summer. Admissions will start to use this terminology this summer but it will not be reflected until 2018-2019 catalog. We are approving something a year and a half ahead because admissions is beginning to use this language now.

A motion in favor of this change was received with one correction (page 2, under Probational Admitted, the word conditional is used which is incorrect), a second was received, and it was unanimously approved.

Applicant Decision

This is a new policy. These decisions were not defined in the past. A student must do one of these things: confirm or decline admission, they can then either early start, defer, or withdraw. Those are the options in the application phase.

A motion in favor of this change was received, a second was received, and it was unanimously approved.

Grade Appeal

This was voted on and approved by UAAC with a change made in the second paragraph. They shortened the length of time for appeal from six months to ninety days. They also changed the wording from the date that the course grade was assigned to the date that the grade was posted.

A motion in to accept the amended proposal was received, along with a second, and it was unanimously approved.

Continuous Enrollment

This policy reduces the time to reapply to one year. If a student is gone for more than one year they now have to reapply to SLU. This matches the undergraduate policy.

A motion in favor of this change was received, a second was received, and it was unanimously approved.

Miscellaneous:

Jan Barber brought to everyone's attention, the box at the top of page two of the program Change Report Form. This box needs to be completed in the future to show the disposition so that Jan knows when things are approved and when she is supposed to forward the information to the candidacy advisor so that they know.

Rob suggested that perhaps this committee needs to form a subcommittee to decide on issues of substantive change. Everything that comes through first goes to three people, they read it and make a decision. The members discussed having a Substantive Change Committee in the future and thought it would be helpful. A vote was taken and all were in favor. Rob will contact people electronically.

Dr. Wood adjourned the meeting at 10:02 a.m.