

**1-Minutes**  
**Graduate Academic Affairs Committee**  
**October 9th, 2020 – via zoom**

**Call to Order:** R. Wood called the meeting to order at 9:00am via zoom.

**New Business:**

**MPH-PA Dual Degree Proposal – Dr. Amy Harkins:**

This dual MPH/MMS degree between the Master in Public Health (MPH) and the Master of Medical Science (MMS) in the Physician Assistant (PA) Program proposal combines courses in public health and medicine currently offered at the College for Public Health and Social Justice (CPHSJ) and Doisy College of Health Sciences (DCHS). Individually, the MPH is a 2-year degree, and the MMS is a 27-month degree. Combined, the dual degree will reduce the time for the MPH by 1 full year. The proposal is similar to that of the dual MD/MPH degree and will have 9 credit hours of PA coursework that will count towards the MPH degree. No courses from the MPH will count towards the MMS degree.

This combined degree program will focus on how the health and well-being of people and communities are influenced by their social and environmental components. PA graduates are trained to become healthcare providers, qualified to provide medical care to patients in a variety of medical settings, including outpatient clinics, emergency departments, and inpatient hospital units, among others. Graduates of the dual degree program will be able to utilize their public health knowledge and skills to complement their medical skills in a variety of settings and situations, including caring for patients who are survivors of domestic abuse; understanding and addressing health disparities amongst populations of people based on culture, race, religion, and urban/rural settings; and enabling research, evaluation and implementation of science, interventions, and policy analysis for people in health resource-poor communities.

We anticipate that this dual degree program will attract students that may not have otherwise applied to SLU resulting in a competitive option for students who wish to combine these two fields of health care. There are 254 accredited PA Programs across the US. Of the top 45 PA Programs (SLU PA is ranked 37), 11 (25%) have a dual MPH/MMS. It is a desirable degree that would increase the visibility and applicability to both academic programs. We anticipate competing for an entirely unreachable population of qualified individuals who currently do not consider SLU due to the lack of combined programs, but who want to attend a nationally ranked PA Program.

Students will need to apply for and be accepted into each of the degree programs independently. They will be advised/mentored in each program the same as non-dual degree seeking students. No additional resources are necessary to launch or administer this dual degree program.

*Recommendation Decision: Unanimously recommended.*

### **EDL Master's Program Change Report – Mark Pousson**

Changes in requirements for degree completion in the MA in Educational Leadership. The requirements for a separate oral examination and written comprehensive examination will be eliminated. Students will complete a comprehensive capstone assessment and present their work within the capstone course, EDL 5500, Professional Seminar. Two minor program changes – FYI's from CPHSJ. These involve removing the PUBH5010 course for the curriculum of the program (Masters of CCJ and Masters of Social Work) **and replacing it with discipline-specific coursework of equivalent credit hours.**

*Recommendation Decision: Unanimously recommended.*

### **Proposed Update and Discussion – GAAC Internal Joint Degree Form and Internal Joint Degree Form Proposed Modifications**

Updated Joint (Internal) Degree Program Proposal Form: a proposed update to the form based upon recommendations from the committee last spring was reviewed and approved.

- The proposed update of the form (GAAC Internal Joint Degree Form) and the analysis of how this form compares to the new program proposal form (Internal Joint Degree Form -Proposed Modifications)

*Recommendation Decision: Unanimously recommended.*

### **Current for GAAC Dual Degree Program Form and GAAC Dual Degree Program – April Trees**

Updated Dual Degree Program Proposal Form was reviewed per committee recommendations from last GAAC meeting and assessment questions was added.

- The current form (GAAC Dual Degree Program Form) and the possible format for assessment questions (GAAC Dual Degree Program -Assessment questions)

*Recommendation Decision: Unanimously recommended.*

### **Helen Lack – Changes to Non-Traditional Dissertations - 2 publications to 1 publication**

Last May I brought to the committee some changes to the non-traditional dissertations and if we could have a plan on how to address this so that we can get this done this fall. This is a

University requirement and not a School of Nursing requirement. We tabled this in May, and brought back to the committee today.

Discussion followed and the committee voted to approve.

The committee did agree that it is entirely up to SON regarding the number of published articles. There was some confusion but the SON will try and follow the policy (p. 15 in the Policies and Procedures for Thesis Project, and Dissertation Formatting, Issued by Saint Louis University Graduate Education) and make sure that students will prepare quality articles before they enter the job market.

While there is a policy/guideline regarding this issue, each school/college is creating different policy/practices. It was also mentioned that it would be up to the dissertation committee whether/or not three published papers tap the same topic/theme.

*Recommendation Decision: Unanimously recommended.*

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM and the next meeting will take place on Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup> @ 9 AM via zoom.

Link will be sent out prior to the meeting.