

**Graduate Academic Affairs Committee
Saint Louis University
Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday, October 08, 2021**

Present: Martha Allen, Christopher Arnatt, Marissa Cope, Felicia C. Echols, Audra Frick, Jesus Garcia-Martinez, Jay Haugen, Riyadh Hindi, Helen Lach, Hisako Matsuo, Shreya Nagendra, J. Mark Pousson, Simona Rentea, Kristi Richter, Ruben Rosario-Rodriguez, Vasit Sagan, Ann Scarlett, Christopher Thomas, April Trees, Theodore Vitali, and Robert Wood

Excused: Anthony Breitbach, Latoya Cash, David Cassens, Michael Elliot, Elizabeth Gockel-Blessing, Christine Harper, Stacey Harrington, Joe Lyons, William Rehg, Steven Sanchez, and Abigail Schnell

The Graduate Academic Affairs Committee (GAAC) meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was presented to the committee for approval. The motion passed. The committee adopted the agenda with additions.

Associate Provost's Remarks

No remarks.

Minutes

The September minutes passed with no corrections.

Correspondence

None

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE:

Dr. Vasit Sagan – Ph.D. in Geoinformatics and Geospatial Analytics

The College of Arts & Sciences Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences is proposing to offer a Ph.D. in Geoinformatics and Geospatial Analytics. The new program will provide students with in-depth knowledge in geoinformatics, and geospatial analytics required to solve today's grand challenges, e.g., climate change, public health, refugees and migration, transportation safety, food, water, and human security from local to global scales. The graduates of the Ph.D. program will gain the multi-disciplinary knowledge and quantitative skills necessary to handle big geospatial data and solve big problems.

Riyadh Hindi moved to accept the proposed program. Jesus Garcia-Martinez seconded. Motion passed.

Dr. Ruben Rosario-Rodriguez – Certificate in Catholic Theology

The College of Arts & Sciences Department of Theological Studies is proposing a certificate as a pathway for secondary school teacher certification in Religion as a non-degree option. The market analysis also supports the Archdiocesan request for an 18 CR Certificate Program in Catholic Theology. Catholic educators interested in becoming certified as a (1) High School Religion Teacher, (2) Adult Religious Education Coordinator, or (3) Director of Religious Education who already have a Level Two Certification can take the required Theology and/or Education credit hours to meet the certification standards set by the Office of Catholic Education and Formation of the Archdiocese of St. Louis through a post-baccalaureate Certificate Program in Catholic Theology.

Helen Lach moved to accept the proposed program with a recommendation that the program's mission statement is consistent throughout Theology Studies. Jesus Garcia-Martinez seconded. Motion passed.

Jay Haugen – Policy on Independent and Directed Studies

The Policy on Independent and Directed Studies codifies and defines independent and directed studies. Independent study and directed study are frequently confused with one another. They are similar in that they both offer the opportunity to study individually with an instructor on a contractual basis, but they differ in intent.

Independent study courses will be listed with the subject code of the course topic, and a course number of 5980/6980 would be renamed to Graduate Independent Study. Directed study courses will be listed in the course catalog with the same subject code and course number as the traditional course with a section of “DS”. Credit assigned for a directed study course will be set equal to the credit value of the traditional course for which it is to be substituted.

Theodore Vitali moved to accept the policy. Helen Lach seconded. Motion passed.

Jay Haugen – Policy on Closure and Student Completion

The Policy on Establishing and Closing Academic Programs codifies and builds upon the University's practice for establishing new academic programs. It also codifies a process for academic program closure. It identifies steps to ensure the review and endorsement of voluntary or involuntary proposals in a manner that is consistent with shared governance principles.

Jesus Garcia-Martinez moved to accept the policy. Theodore Vitali seconded. Motion passed.

Jay Haugen – Micro-Credentials Definitions

In creating the micro-credential definitions, the desire is to ensure that academic units have the autonomy and flexibility necessary to leverage multiple uses of micro-credentials across different audiences. Micro-credential has three categories' academics, skill competencies, and continuing education. There are also non-credentialing and credentialing aspects to micro-credentials. SLU currently has some of these elements within its existing programs that could immediately fall under the new definition.

The report provided by the University Registrar is for information purposes only as UAAC has not approved the policy.

New Business

Mark Pousson – School of Education Program Name Change

The School of Education voted to change the Master's in Student Personnel Administration name to Master's in Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration to align with other universities' offering the same program.

The name change is not a substantial change that requires an action from GAAC. Therefore, the information presented will serve as an official announcement of the program's name change.

Announcements/Issues

None

The GAAC adjourned the meeting.

Felicia C. Echols, Ed.D.
Coordinator, Academic Affairs

Dr. Robert Wood
Associate Provost, Academic Affairs