

**Graduate Academic Affairs Committee
Saint Louis University
Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday, December 10, 2021**

Present: Martha Allen, Christopher Arnatt, Naresh Bansal, Marissa Cope, Felicia C. Echols, Michael Elliot, Noelle Fearn, Lisa Fisher, Audra Frick, Jesus Garcia-Martinez, Elizabeth Gockel-Blessing, Christine Harper, Riyadh Hindi, Helen Lach, Debra Lohe, Joe Lyons, Stephen Magoc, Hisako Matsuo, Shreya Nagendra, J. Mark Pousson, Simona Rentea, Ann Scarlett, Olgun Sahin, Christopher Thomas, April Trees, Theodore Vitali, and Robert Wood

Excused: Anthony Breitbach, Latoya Cash, David Cassens, Stacey Harrington, Jay Haugen, William Rehg, Kristi Richter, 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 no additions.

Associate Provost's Remarks

No remarks.

Minutes

The November minutes were approved with no corrections.

Correspondence

None

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE:

Debra Lohe, Ph.D. - Distance Learning Office

Dr. Lohe provided a brief overview of the Distance Learning Office roles, responsibilities, and steps for a proposal approval. Dr. Lohe defined distance learning as a student's ability to complete at least 50% or more of the required courses in a program from a distance.

Debra Lohe, Ph.D. - Blackboard

Dr. Lohe announced at the end of Spring 2022, Blackboard will no longer be available as a resource to the university. There will not be a historical archive to retrieve any previous courses and incomplete grades managed through Blackboard when the system ends. This information was sent to the entire university.

Christopher Thomas, Ph.D. - Chaifetz School of Business: Finance – Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Finance

The Chaifetz School of Business in Finance informed the committee that FIN6150 (Finance Theory) is designed for graduate students specializing in financial economics (primarily for MS-AFE). Requiring FIN6150 is an entry barrier for students who want to do a certificate. In contrast, FIN6000 (Finance for Managers) is a more general introductory course. With FIN6000 replacing FIN6150, the department expects higher interest in the certificate. In addition, the certificate would be renamed from Certificate in Finance to Certificate in Financial Investments.

The 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 changes.

Christopher Thomas, Ph.D. - Chaifetz School of Business: Operations and Information Technology Management – Supply Chain

The Chaifetz School of Business proposes making updates to the supply chain management that will take effect Fall 2023. The number of required hours for certificate completion will be reduced from 12 to 9 for integration into a future stackable certificate MBA program. The current certificate contains four required courses. The proposed certificate will contain one required course Supply Chain Management and two electives from the three courses currently in the certificate.

The 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 changes.

Christopher Thomas, Ph.D. - Chaifetz School of Business and Saint Louis University Libraries Resource Analysis: Graduate Certificate in Real Estate

It is expected that the real estate certificate will attract industry professionals looking for career advancement and those who plan to get real estate occupations. The design of this certificate will also lend itself to inclusion in a future, redesigned PMBA program based on stackable certificates. Demand for traditional MBA programs has increasingly shifted toward an interest in stackable credentials. Offering a certificate also offers students to pivot within their curriculum within the MBA if they find something else that sparks their passion. As technology and business practices constantly change, a stackable program allows for flexibility and lifelong learning. SLU is already educating students in the certificate program area, and receiving the certificate enables the student to show employers that they have a background in a sought-after skill.

The proposal was sent back to the department to revise the language for the prerequisites and the modality of the course needs to be clearly defined which will affect admission.

Dr. Noelle Fearn – College of Public Health & Social Justice: School of Social Work – Master of Science Applied Behavior Analysis

The College of Public Health & Social Justice: School of Social Work proposes launching an MS ABA program online and dividing it into two concentrations (practitioner track and scientist track). The new track, MS ABA Practitioner Track, would be the same as the MS ABA Scientist Track program, which is the current program, with one exception: the thesis component is removed from the degree requirement. The removal of the thesis reduces the credit hours (by four (4)), thus requiring a total of 35 credit hours to complete the MS ABA Practitioner Track degree (as compared to 39 total credit hours for the MS ABA Scientist Track degree). This will increase

enrollment in the overall Applied Behavior Analysis program, provide more visibility to Saint Louis University, and help strengthen the overall program. An online program will also ensure that Saint Louis University remains competitive in the changing landscape as more students explore to access online education.

Jesus Garcia-Martinez motioned to accept the proposed program with changes. Helen Lach seconded. Motion passed.

Dr. April Trees – College of Arts & Sciences: Experimental Psychology Ph.D. Program

The College of Arts & Sciences proposes removing PSY 5130 Neuroscience from the curriculum to reduce the required credits to complete our program by three credits. The goal is to increase the neuroscience content of the existing required PSY 5120 Memory and Cognition course by adding more cognitive neuroscience empirical journal article readings for discussion. This will allow students to better understand the neural correlates of cognitive processes. The program also plans to have one of the 6190 Cognitive Neuroscience Specialty Topic Seminars required. This will allow students in the program to have the opportunity to receive a substantial amount of instruction in neuroscience.

The 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 changes.

**Lisa Fischer, Ph.D. - College of Philosophy and Letters and ESL Program/INTO SLU:
A new graduate Pathway that will serve as a progression route into the M.A. Philosophy & Theology for Ministry degree**

The Graduate Pathway in Philosophy and Theology for Ministry program would offer two progression routes for those who are not seeking ordination but will receive an M.A. in Philosophy & Theology for Ministry.

Elizabeth Gockel-Blessing motioned to accept the proposed program with changes. Jesus Garcia-Martinez seconded. Motion passed.

**Steven Magoc, Ph.D. - Parks College of Engineering, Aviation and Technology Department
of Aviation Science: Doctor of Aviation**

The proposed Av.D. program would remain entirely within the Department of Aviation Science with no need to create a new department or significantly modify the existing Department of Aviation Science. The educational delivery of the proposed Av.D. program will be entirely distance. The logic in the program involves the research core courses being taught in sequence. The remaining courses in the program are not sequentially dependent. The curriculum is designed around the fundamental concepts in aviation, e.g., Human Factors, Safety, Training, and Policy.

The proposal was sent back to the department for a description or outline of what makes the program unique and learning outcomes that are clear and separate from the existing doctorate program. In addition, the proposal needs approval from the Distance Education Committee.

Hisako Matsuo, Ph.D., Jesus Garcia-Martinez, MD, Ph.D., and Shreya Nagendra – Issues with IRB

The IRB team gathered information from the various departments that use IRB. Some of the issues are the timing of approvals, analyst communication, analyst judging the science of the project, and the length of the form with repetitive questions.

Dr. Wood offered three possible solutions:

1. A letter from GAAC to the Office of the Vice President for Research and Partnerships with the IRB concerns.
2. Seek assistance from the faculty senate to address the IRB concerns.
3. Create a sub-committee within GAAC to develop a white paper of IRB concerns and solutions.
4. Invite Matthew Davis, Chief of Staff from the Office of the Provost, in February 2022 to discuss IRB concerns.

Hisako Matsuo, Ph.D. - Doctoral Oral Exam

The oral exam is also used as a dissertation defense. The proposal is to reduce the number of committee members for doctoral oral exams from 5 to 3.

Solution: If a department needs a reduction in doctoral examiners for a doctoral oral defense submit a request to Dr. Wood for approval.

New Business

Announcements/Issues

Dr. April Trees announced the fellowship scholarships' application and screening process has been updated. This information has been sent to departments.

Dean of Libraries David Cassens is retiring on June 30, 2022.

The GAAC adjourned the meeting.

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

Dr. Robert Wood
Associate Provost, Academic Affairs