

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

Present: Martha Allen, Christopher Arnatt, Marissa Cope, James Duffy, Michael Elliot, Audra Frick, Jesus Garcia-Martinez, Elizabeth Gockel-Blessing, Christine Harper, Jay Haugen, Riyadh Hindi, Helen Lach, Srikanth Mudigonda, Shreya Nagendra, J. Mark Pousson, Ann Scarlett, Christopher Thomas, Terry Tomazic, April Trees, Ted Vitali, and Robert Wood

Excused: Anthony Breitbach, Latoya Cash, David Cassens, Felicia C. Echols, Angeles Encinar, Stacey Harrington, Chayce Kenny, Irma Kuljanishvili, Hisako Matsuo, Katelyn McConnell Lisa Fischer, Maureen Wikete Lee, Ben Looker, William Rehg, Laura Russell, Steven Sanchez, and Gina Yosten

The Graduate Academic Affairs Committee (GAAC) meeting was called to order at 9:01 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 August minutes passed with no corrections.

Correspondence

None

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE:

Dr. James F. Duffy – Medicine Master's in Medical Sciences

The Master's in Medical Sciences proposal would allow students to gracefully exit the medical school program, acknowledging their successful completion of the science courses in the pre-clinical phases. There is a master's program with the same name in another health sciences department; therefore, the name has been changed to reflect officially Master's in Health Care Sciences.

The committee offered feedback and proposed friendly amendments to address discrepancies. Elizabeth Gockel-Blessing motioned to accept the proposed program with changes. Ted Vitali 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.

The University Registrar encouraged committee members to seek feedback from department colleagues. The final draft will be discussed at the October meeting.

Jay Haugen – Policy on Closure and Student Completion

The Policy on Establishing and Closing Academic Programs a draft policy that 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.

The University Registrar encouraged committee members to seek feedback from department colleagues. The final draft will be discussed at the October meeting.

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 is also a 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 University Registrar encouraged committee members to seek feedback from department colleagues. The final draft will be discussed at the October meeting.

Dr. Ann Scarlett – Master in Human Resources Law

The department is proposing a voluntary program closure for the Master’s in Human Resources Law. The program has not been successful over the years in attracting students and no degree has been conferred under this program.

Ted Vitali motioned to accept the proposed program with changes. Helen Lach seconded. Motion passed.

New Business

None

Announcements/Issues

None

The GAAC adjourned the meeting.

Felicia C. Echols, Ed.D.
Academic Coordinator

Dr. Robert Wood
Associate Provost, Academic Affairs