

Graduate Academic Affairs Committee Meeting  
Saint Louis University  
Friday, November 10, 2023

**Voting Members Present:** Dana Malkus, Beth Gockel-Blessing, Takako Nomi, Jen Jen Chang, Joe Lyons, Katie Mascari, Kristi Ritcher (proxy for Steven McMillin), Nicole Pozzi, Tricia Bagsby, Ranjith Bandari, Will Rehg, Zhenguo Lin

**Non-voting Members and Regular Guests Present:** Marissa Cope, Janie Henderson, Jay Haugen, Nicole Mispagel, Jennifer Popiel, April Trees

**Members Absent:** Steven McMillin, Ness Sandoval, Helen Lach, Dana Baum, Ashley Yukhiro

**Guests:** Naresh Bansal, Chair of Finance, Chaifetz School of Business

**I. Approval of October Minutes:** Approved.

**II. Discussions**

**1. New Program Proposals:**

*a. MS Finance – Naresh Bansal, Chair of Finance*

Dr. Bansal introduced the Finance program proposal to the committee. GAAC members asked questions regarding the approval of courses and syllabi within the finance department. The M.S. Finance new program proposal was approved unanimously.

**2. Program Closures**

*a. Pathology, Ph.D.*

There is currently only one student who is completing their dissertation work. The Pathology Ph.D. program closure was unanimously approved.

*b. Occupational Therapy O.T.D.*

The OTD program currently has no students. There's been a lack of interest in the program, and high turnover of faculty and staff. In the future, the program may return if there is a need. The occupational Therapy O.T.D. closure was unanimously approved.

**3. Program Change Proposals**

*a. M.P.H. Program – Jen Jen Chang, M.P.H. Program Director*

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The M.P.H. program is reducing the number of required credit hours to 42 to respond to accreditation changes in required credit hours. The M.P.H. program change was approved unanimously.

- b. **Program Degree and Name Change FYI: MS Health Administration—previously MHCM Master of HealthCare Management.** This change was brought to the committee as an FYI in case there were any concerns about the name change among other units. No concerns were expressed, so the degree and name change will move forward.

4. **Old/Ongoing business**

- a. **Dual Degree Program: MSW and MS Applied Behavior Analysis:** This was approved by CADD and the Provost. No additional approvals are needed because it is a dual degree program.
- b. **Policy Review: Independent and Directed Study Courses** Dr. Trees sent an updated version of the policy addressing previous concerns about credit hour limitations and separating from Independent Study. Dr. Rehg provided feedback asking that the policy include how it will define “credit” limitations. He also voiced concern about the Senior Honors Project 4990 course being confused with the 4980 course. Dr. Trees will talk to Jay Haugen and Lisa Dorsey about clarification and how it will lead to a proposed change. This will be readdressed at next month’s meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:47am.

Minutes submitted by Janie Henderson, GAAC Executive Secretary