

Graduate Academic Affairs Committee– Meeting Minutes
Saint Louis University
Friday, October 11, 2024

Voting Members Present: Jon Baris (substitute for Dana Malkus); Dana Baum, Toby Benis, Kyle Crews (substitute for Srikanth Mudigonda); Zackary Davis (substitute for Sebastian Arteaga); Lauren Lanfried (substitute for Rabia Rahman); Zhenguo Lin, Karen Moore (substitute for Helen Lach), Takako Nomi, Ness Sandoval, Ashley Yukihiro

Non-voting Members Present: April Trees, Janie Henderson, Jay Haugen, Nicole Mispagel, Jen Popiel

Voting Members Absent: Sebastian Arteaga, Helen Lach, Dana Malkus, Srikanth Mudigonda, Nicola Pozzi, Rabia Rahman

Guests: Dr. Michael Boyle and Dr. Anthony Breitbach

- I. **Approval of August 18, 2024 Minutes:** Approved. Corrected the spelling of Jesse Helton's name, who substituted for Kristi Richter in September.

- II. **Discussions & Votes**

- A. Program Change Proposals:**

1. 256: Teaching M.A. (online version) → Dr. Michael Boyle (guest)

Dr. Boyle provided background on the reason for the addition of an online modality for this program. Catholic Education wants to add an online modality to provide additional training and certification for teachers at Catholic schools. Most states and schools do not require teachers to have certification in Catholic education. Adding this modality will help to address the current Catholic teacher shortage nationwide. Currently there are not enough colleges and universities to offer this type of program.

GAAC members had several questions, and asked that the proposal provide clarity on the following concerns:

- (1) GAAC had concerns that the budget appears to plan for the program be taught entirely by adjuncts. Will the program budget for full-time faculty who are interested in teaching a course within the modality?
- (2) Will there be permanent faculty person(s) involved to provide content commonality and consistency with the onground program?

Additionally, there were questions around whether or not the budget for this program (which does require new resources) has been approved by the provost (Dr. Trees will inquire).

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GAAC's vote is postponed until the November meeting. Dr. Trees will take questions and concerns back to the program so they can address our questions.

New Program Proposals

- 696: Catholic Education, PBC → Dr. Michael Boyle

Dr. Boyle also provided background information about this new Certificate proposal. This PBC is introduced to fulfill a request from the Texas Catholic Conference in regards to providing current teachers with Catholic education training skills and tools. This would be a supplement to their professional development. Any and all financial and career incentives will be left up to individual schools and the Diocese.

Dr. Trees asked for clarification about why the PBC would only require 12 credits instead of 15, which is often the credit hour requirement for financial incentives (at least in the public school system). Does this miss out on a motivator for completing the certificate? Dr. Lanfried (substitute for Dr. Rahman), and Ms. Yurkihiro inquired about costs to the program and the university. Dr. Trees will check with the provost regarding new resources required. Several GAAC members asked about the possibility of offering the certificate in-person as well as online as all the classes are part of Teaching MA which is offered in-person. The questions to pose to the program include:

- (1) Would 15 credits be more persuasive for teachers than 12 given the raise structure at many schools? Related to this was an inquiry about what, beyond the specific Catholic Education course makes this a Catholic Education specific certificate? Is one course sufficient?
- (2) Could the certificate be available for students on-ground as well as the classes are a subset of the Teaching MA program?
- (3) Will this have broad appeal beyond Texas?
- (4) Similar questions regarding who is teaching the courses were raised about this program as well as the Teaching MA modality change.

- 725: Interprofessional Collaboration, Graduate Microcredential → Dr. Anthony Breitbach

Dr. Breitbach explained that this new microcredential will be an optional opportunity for graduate students to be formally recognized for their participation in various interprofessional activities. This will be open to all students regardless of program or school. The proposal includes

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accessible language highlighting the benefits to all students at SLU. All activities will have a built-in assessment requirement in order for students to be awarded the credential.

GAAC voiced support for this credential. Members requested that the proposal rewrite the rationale to include more inclusive, non-clinical context for students who are outside of the health programs (if that is what was intended for the program or to clarify the boundaries in some other way). It was suggested that the proposal also provide an explanation about the approval process for activities that can be proposed so that is visible to students in the catalog. GAAC will vote on the proposal at the November meeting.

C. Old Business

- Prerequisite Policy Draft → Jay Haugen

UAAC is in the process of rewriting the policy to include feedback given last year. Updated information includes centralizing tracking prerequisites for students who choose to complete a course requirement off-campus. The Registrar will now oversee this process, taking the responsibility off of faculty. Faculty will still be able to override a student's prerequisite requirement.

Mr. Haugen and Dr. Trees asked GAAC to give an update to their departments, and to bring any questions or concerns to the November meeting.

- Repeating Courses→ Jay Haugen

If a student fails a course at SLU, and then decides to take the same course off-campus, that grade will not replace their SLU grade.

This also should be shared with constituents for discussion and voting at the November meeting.

- Council of Graduate Schools Consultation - Action Steps

The Provost is in the process of approving committees and subcommittees for the work related to the FY27 working group President Pestello announced. The work of the CGS taskforce (GEAR task force) will be relevant to those groups given its focus on the structure of graduate education. Once those committees have been populated, we will also populate the GEAR task force. Dr. Trees is working with GAAC, GSA and other groups to gather people to serve on these committees.

III. Meeting adjourned at 10:13 am.

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