

Graduate Academic Affairs Committee– Meeting Minutes
Saint Louis University
Friday, September 13, 2024

Voting Members Present: Sebastian Arteaga, Dana Baum, Toby Benis, Jen Jen Chang, Jesse Helton (substitute for Kristi Richter), Zhenguo Lin, Dana Malkus, Katie Mascari, Srikanth Mudigonda, Takako Nomi, Rabia Rahman, Ness Sandoval, Ashley Yukihiro

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

Voting Members Absent: Helen Lach, Steve McMillin, Nicola Pozzi, Chris Thomas

Non-voting Members Absent: Chris Harper

Guests: Stephen Belt (Aviation); Christina Garcia (Spanish)

I. **Approval of August 18, 2024 Minutes:** Approved.

II. **Discussions & Votes**

A. Program Change Proposals:

- 211: Business Administration MBA (One-Year) – Changing credit hours for the majority of courses)

The MBA program standardized most of the credit hours. Due to the number of courses that were affected, the MBA program showed as a substantial program change in Courseleaf, requiring approval from GAAC. The committee approved the changes unanimously.

- 480: Aviation Ph.D. (Adding a blended, primarily on-ground modality) - Stephen Belt

Dr. Belt explained to the committee that the doctoral program in-person and online components have gone through various modifications over the past 10-years and this has resulted in both program tracks to not be fully or correctly represented in the course catalog. The program in previous catalogs has had an onground option. This absence in the catalog has affected recruiting and admitting students; as well as creating a lack of clarity about program requirements.

Both GAAC members, Mr. Arteaga and Ms. Yukihiro, asked about how program changes will affect tuition. Mr. Haugen explained that tuition will remain the same, however student fees will differ depending on whether the student chooses the remote or in-person program route.

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Program changes were approved unanimously by GAAC. Both Dr. Trees and Mr. Haugen will ask the Distance Education Office about federal compliance guidelines for blended programs and follow-up with the program if necessary.

B. New Program Proposals

- 704: Advanced Spanish PBC.

Christina Garcia provided details about the proposed changes for Advanced Spanish Studies. The program change is aimed at local educators who have already completed a master's degree, and are looking to complete 15 credit hours at the graduate level, which affects salary for teachers. Additionally, to teach in the 1818 program, instructors are required to have completed 18 credit hours in Spanish.

Marissa Cope noted that the assessment plan is the plan for the M.A. and must be revised to be specifically designed for the PBC.

GAAC members voted unanimously in favor of the program change, contingent upon obtaining a registrar letter of support for the PBC and modifying the assessment plan for the PBC.

C. Program Closures

- 324: Medical Anatomy and Physiology PBC

The School of Medicine developed a new master's program last spring that will replace this PBC. The department would like to remove this as a certificate option. No teach-out plan is required as all students will have graduated by the time it is closed at the end of this year.

GAAC voted unanimously for program closure.

D. New Business

Curricular and Assessment/Institutional Accreditation Standards Presentation).

Marissa Cope presented information, changes and ongoing work about assessment and accreditation standards. Ms. Cope offered to share presentation slides if requested.

CGS Consultation Next Steps

Toby Benis asked about the recent e-mail that came out from the provost's office regarding a review of the administration and structure of graduate education at Saint Louis University and the plans for constituting

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the committee, and Ashley Yukihiro added a question regarding graduate student representation. April Trees indicated that the provost's office would work with the Faculty Senate and others with regard to faculty representation on the committee and with the Graduate Student Association with regard to graduate student representation.

III. Meeting adjourned at 10:13 am.