

Graduate Studies Council - GSC
Minutes
3/1/23

Trenton Hall 116

Members present: **Suzanne McCotter, K. Jervis, E. Farr, M. Ellard, D. Bowen, L. Foxworth (Vice Chair), K. Grant, M. Dugan (Chair)**, M. Pozzuolo (graduate student)

Review [2/1/23 minutes](#).

L. Foxworth motioned the minutes be approved. D. Bowen seconded.

Agenda item:

Tim Clydesdale and Steve O'Brien at 1:35 pm to discuss:

- Possible new interdisciplinary graduate course: *Creativity and Community: A Design-Thinking Approach*
 - Please see [draft syllabus](#)
 - Curriculum review is not ordinarily within the purview of the GSC, but asking GSC to serve in this way given the absence of an interdisciplinary graduate curriculum committee
 - course will be the first of two required courses in our Master of Professional Studies degree

Committee discussion and formal actions:

Steve O'Brien described the purpose of the course. Theme of the course is how to create value and what that means for students through the tools of design thinking and systems thinking. Might help students thinking through which courses to take to develop value for their careers. The course would be the first of two required courses taken by students in the Masters of Professional Studies program, which combines two stand-alone certificates into the MA. Hopefully taught in the first semester (or early) in the student's career. 2 credits. Would like to eventually move to asynchronous, but currently designed to be synchronous online.

Comments: Ties the MPS together (Foxworth). (Grant) Maybe provide a stronger career/workforce connection. Where will it live? (Ellard) Answer: probably Graduate Studies. Would need to trim hours for teaching in the summer. (Dugan)

Agenda item:

Review of [Stakeholder Feedback](#) on Undergraduates Enrolling and Double Counting Grad Courses Policy

- [Benchmarking](#) task by Fri, 3/3

Committee discussion and formal actions:

We reviewed the stakeholder comments. Several comments questioned whether students who have completed only 16 units would be ready for graduate courses. It was suggest that 20 units would be an appropriate comprise position, which would allow second-semester juniors to enroll in graduate courses if they receive permission from the respective undergraduate and graduate programs.

Action: We are adjusting our preliminary recommendation to point 2 Eligibility Criteria to 20 units from 16 units.

Action: Benchmarking review needs to be completed by 3/3 to report back to CAP. GSC members were assigned an institution to review their policies on undergraduates taking graduate courses/double-counting graduate courses.

Agenda item:

Review of [Comprehensive Exam Policy](#) redlined from Steering

Committee discussion and formal actions:

The GSC has no comments on the proposed changes to the Comprehensive Exam Policy and finds the changes responsible.

Motion: Dugan motioned to approve the revised policy. Foxworth seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda item:

Suzanne McCotter

- Graduate Commencement

Committee discussion and formal actions:

Dean McCotter reported that the planned graduation ceremonies for graduate programs are: May 12th (certificate programs) and May 19th (graduate degrees)

We discussed changes to the graduate degree ceremony. Pozzuolo suggested having a faculty speaker. Foxworth suggested a student speaker. The council did not feel that an alumni speaker was needed.

Miscellaneous: Dugan suggested relevant graduate calendar dates be added to the main academic calendar.

Next Meeting April 5, 2023 ([Back to Trenton 120](#))