

Graduate Studies Council - GSC
Minutes
10/16/24, 1:30-2:50pm, Education 302F

Members: D. Bowen (Chair), T. Dieterich, J. Duan, M. Ellard, E. Farr, L. Foxworth, L. Mayger,

Excused: T. Clydesdale, R. Turk, A. Winfield-Summiel.

1. Minutes approved from [10/2](#) meeting.
2. Discussion of Internship / Co-op policy (in-development), as requested by CAP
 - a. Clarify that one of the main goals is increased clarity on internships vs. co-ops
 - b. Documents shared:
 - i. [Current policy](#)
 - ii. [Redlined draft](#) of updated policy
 - iii. [summary slides](#) presented at 10/16 Faculty Senate meeting.
 - c. Guidelines: CAP would like our input on this draft before their next meeting on 11/13., as it is a first attempt at creating co-op experiences which may have a particular impact on graduate programs (see [CAP's charge](#)). We do not need to collect testimony but we can certainly review peer institutions' policies or engage in other data collections efforts as needed.
 - d. CAP posed the following questions - our discussion included:
 - *Is the policy overly prescriptive (and maybe too complex), or is the level of detail necessary to provide appropriate guidance?*
 - *Is the policy flexible enough to be applicable to a variety of departments and programs?*
 - *Would the policy conflict with any current degree/program requirements?*
 - *We provided caps on the number of course units/credits that can be applied to any degree program. Are these reasonable? Should these numbers be adjusted?*
 - *We provided minimum course prerequisites. Are these reasonable? Should these numbers be adjusted?*
 - e. Recommendations:
 - i. What is the further distinction of an internship and a co-op? Can a student do an internship, then stay with a company to work with them and earn co-op hours in the next semester?
 1. Recommend using definition used in the Faculty Senate slides, which seems clearer.
 - ii. Current policy specifies that student teaching is excluded. Recommending this is brought to the foreground and add "licensure and certification."
 - iii. The current policy seems overly prescriptive and does not reflect the flexibility needed for students to benefit from internship and co-op opportunities as programs evolve (ex: 4+1)
 - iv. Credit hours are inconsistent in the policy:
 1. 1 credit = 45 hours for undergraduate, 1 credit = 60 hours for graduate credit, but other areas mention 1 credit = 100 hours.

- v. Recommend that no more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of a degree can be completed by earning internship/co-op credits.
- vi. Regarding pre-requisites, specify that programs may establish pre-requisites as appropriate. Eliminate any universal credit co-req/pre-req.
- vii. Change “degree requirement” to “degree” in both occurrences in item 3.
- viii. Faculty and Administration (section 4.iv.) - simplify to:
 - 1. Faculty will provide, at a minimum, ongoing guidance and an evaluation at the end of the internship/co-op.

3. Other issues

4. Adjournment

5. Next meeting: 11/06/2024