



Date: Wednesday, February 15th, 2023, from 3:00pm-5:00pm

Location: [WebEx Conference](#)

Subject: **Executive Committee (EC) of The Graduate School meeting minutes**

Attendees: Mary Anne Amalaradjou, Mary Bernstein (*Ex-Officio*), Kristin Bott, Jack Corcoran (*Ex-Officio, Recording Secretary*), David Embrick, Mitchell Green, Kent Holsinger (*Ex-Officio, Chair*), Barbara Kream (*Ex-Officio*), Charles Mahoney, Etan Markus, D. Betsy McCoach, Rosa Raudales, Judith Thorpe

Absent: *None*

Guests: Eric Brunner, Laura Burton, Jose Cruz

1. The meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 3:01 p.m.
2. Presentation and vote for past meeting minutes, Jan. 18th, 2023: The minutes from this EC meeting were approved unanimously.
3. There were no new announcements to report.
4. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program (22-GUAR-WM6NK4) Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management*
 - a. Sponsoring Department: Public Policy
 - b. Sponsoring School/College: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
 - c. Presenter: Eric Brunner

Eric Brunner from the Department of Public Policy presented on changes to the Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management. The Public Policy department updated the name of this certificate to reflect their internal changes and have also added three additional elective courses to provide students with more flexibility when completing their certification.

There were no questions. A motion to approve was made by Charles Mahoney and seconded by Etan Markus. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposal unanimously.

5. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program (22- GUAR-2RDXYU) Master of Public Policy (M.P.P.) (reprise)*
 - a. Sponsoring Department: Public Policy
 - b. Sponsoring School/College: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
 - c. Presenter: Eric Brunner

6. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program (22-GUAR-NCRC9) Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.) (reprise)*
 - a. Sponsoring Department: Public Policy
 - b. Sponsoring School/College: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
 - c. Presenter: Eric Brunner

Note: The above GPAR requests (5 & 6) were jointly presented for consideration and voting.

In addition to his prior proposal, Eric Brunner presented on both the Master of Public Policy and Master of Public Administration programs. As a follow-up to the previous Executive Committee meeting, where Brunner proposed the introduction of a zero-credit required course, his department has decided to rescind their request to implement this option. Instead, the department is going to work to incorporate the content into their curriculum via a required final experience course.

There were no questions. A motion to approve was made by David Embrick and seconded by Mitchell Green. The Executive Committee voted to approve both of these proposals unanimously.

7. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program (22-BURT-UETNNO) Master of Science in Sport Management*
 - a. Sponsoring Department: Educational Leadership
 - b. Sponsoring School/College: Neag School of Education
 - c. Presenter: Laura Burton

Laura Burton from the Department of Educational Leadership proposed the change in the current Master of Science in Sport Management program. This change would remove the required quantitative methods course, but the course would remain a recommended elective. The department has found that, for student's opting out of the thesis plan and instead pursuing the internship or capstone path, it adds an unnecessary roadblock to their studies, as the course hasn't been shown to translate to the content of their chosen internship or otherwise. All students, however, would still be required to take a required research methods course.

There were no questions. A motion to approved was made by Charles Mahoney and seconded by Etan Markus. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposal unanimously.

8. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program (23-BAKE-2QQMVI) Executive M.B.A.*
 - a. Sponsoring School/College: School of Business
 - b. Presenter: Jose Cruz

Jose Cruz from the School of Business presented on the proposed credit change to the Executive M.B.A. program. As approved by the Executive Committee at the previous meeting, the standard M.B.A. program was reduced from 57 credits to 42 credits. The foundation of this proposal is to provide equality between all the M.B.A. programs within the School of Business.

Dean Holsinger asked Cruz if there is a substantial difference in course content between the varying M.B.A. programs in the School of Business. Cruz stated that some content is distinct, but all degrees follow a similar trajectory and can be completed in the same amount of time. A motion to approve was made by Mitchell Green and seconded by David Embrick. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposal unanimously.

9. Discussion Item: Expectations for Graduate Faculty
 - a. In conjunction with staff from The Graduate School and Mary Anne Amalaradjou, Dean Holsinger and Associate Dean Bernstein presented a new document that outlines the expectations of graduate faculty members as mentors and advisors, and what they can do to perform their role to the utmost benefit of the student. It is emphasized that this is simply a draft, and there will be appropriate time for input from varying departments and stakeholders.
 - b. David Embrick asked for clarification on the criterion for appointment to graduate faculty process and follows-up with questioning how this new document would be attached to that appointment. Dean Holsinger explained that there are no explicit criteria aside from being approved by the Dean of The Graduate School and the Department Head, and typically, the faculty member must be a permanent faculty member, or have the time to advise students if they are an adjunct. Additionally, it is noted that there is no mechanism to remove someone from the graduate faculty if they were to be non-compliant with the new set of expectations.
 - c. Kristin Bott expressed concerns that, while the new expectations serve as a great guideline for tenure-track faculty, it seems to be missing a lot of key elements relating to clinical faculty. She stated that if her and her colleagues were held to these standards, it would be difficult to meet them, as they do not directly correlate to the work that they do. Dean Holsinger asked if Bott would be willing to help reword and add some useful language in the new document to add a clinical lens to these expectations, to which Bott agreed to do.
 - d. Etan Markus noted that while the details are effectively written, it is easy to get lost in them and recommended that the document be shorter and more explicit. For example, Markus suggested that there should be a specific outline of steps for graduate faculty members to follow that isn't bogged down by details and exposition. David Embrick stated that he agreed to an extent, but there is a balance that must be had. He suggested that perhaps The Graduate School website could have an extensive list of details and resources for further reading

for graduate faculty members. Embrick noted that these detailed expectations are important to include somewhere, as we shouldn't make the assumption that every graduate faculty member would know how to be a helpful and effective advisor.

- e. Rosa Raudales stated that she approved of the document as is, but that it may be helpful to create a broader list of expectations that different departments could tailor to their own faculty. Dean Holsinger noted that this has been done in the past and has worked effectively, and it is something they could implement into this set of guidelines as well.
- f. Mitchell Green discussed a concern in the language of some of the expectations that could be interpreted too literally by some faculty members, and lead to them overstepping their boundaries with students. Both Dean Holsinger and Associate Dean Bernstein noted that this document would not be put forth without approval and backing from the Graduate Faculty Council, and that the purpose of including these details is to promote to the members of graduate faculty that they should be encouraging a healthy work-life balance, as without that, it could create many crises for students and ultimately prevent them from finishing their degree.
- g. Charles Mahoney stated that he approved of the document in its current state but questioned why the expectations started off by discussing a sense of community and noted that some faculty members might wonder why that mattered to them. Dean Holsinger said that it is important for them to set that precedent that students come first as people, and a major part of that is acknowledging the importance of their sense of community.
- h. Kristin Bott made another point to note that it is important to acknowledge that some expectations are set by departments and state laws, and those would be unable to be controlled. For example, Bott said that clinical hours and financial need are two things she has seen in her discipline that cause great deals of stress on students, but those are things that cannot be outlined in this new set of expectations.
- i. Dean Holsinger asks the Executive Committee as a collective when to present this outline of expectations to the Graduate Faculty Council for review. Charles Mahoney stated to do it at the next meeting to give the council more time to deliberate and respond to everything noted in the new set of expectations. Dean Holsinger will work with Kristin Bott to include effective language for clinical faculty members.

10. The meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 4:11 p.m. The next meeting is currently scheduled for March 8th, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.