

Executive Council of Graduate Faculty

Minutes for 1 March 2019

Present: Interim Dean Audrey Lamb (Chair), Thomas DeLuca, Tien-Tsung Lee, Marie-Alice L'Heureux, Yan Li, Tarun Sabarwal, Sherri Tucker, Herb Tuttle, Michael Wolfe, Assistant Dean Amanda Ostreko (Staff), Amber Roberts Graham (Staff),

Absent: Chris Johnson, Joshua Miner, Ed Scanlon, Andrew Short, Michael Werle (Ex Officio), Mike Wilkins, Jessy Carolina Aystas Hernandez (Staff)

Also present: Cécile Accilien, Brian Lines, Ayako Mizumura

Announcements

- Technical edits to the Master's Student Oral Exam Committee Composition policy and the Master's Degree Requirements have been approved and published.
- GSAC Process Update
 - Dr. Ostreko provided overview information about the Committee's composition and charges.
 - The subcommittees have been meeting regularly and have at least one or two more meetings each scheduled for March, as well as at least one meeting of the full committee.
 - The Provost has requested the full committee's recommendations by 1 April.
 - The Council discussed what the next steps might be after that.
- Since guests usually attend the first portion of the meeting, the Council reviewed the last meeting's minutes at the end, to respect their time.

New Program Proposals

- Graduate Certificate in Construction Management
 - *Representative: Brian Lines*
 - Professor Lines introduced the new graduate certificate program in Construction Management and fielded questions.
 1. The certificate targets individuals looking to concentrate specifically on construction management in order to improve their career prospects. It is built according to a standard model used in the department of Civil, Environmental, and Architectural Engineering and will be the fifth such certificate offered. The model has proven effective.
 2. The Council discussed the number of faculty listed as contributors and suggested a friendly amendment to update the list for accuracy.
 3. The Council also discussed the course list, whether they were already existing courses, who would monitor student progress, and whether offering this program would put additional burden on the faculty.
 4. The Council asked whether students might get the certificate twice, since it requires choosing four of a possible eight courses. KU does not allow issuance of the same credential twice to the same individual.

- Graduate Certificate in African-American Studies
 - *Representative: Cécile Accilien*
 - Professor Accilien introduced the new graduate certificate program in African-American Studies and fielded questions.
 - This certificate will be beneficial because issues of race and power should be addressed across all fields. Offering a certificate will allow access to a broader range of Ph.D. students.
 - No additional resources or courses are required.
 - The Council discussed how the program requirements are listed: one required course will serve as a gateway or foundation and students will choose three electives among any courses that address African-American Studies. There will be a clear structure for the COGA advisor and Director of Graduate Studies to guide students in selecting appropriate courses.
 - The Council also asked whether the gateway course had to be taken first. It will ideally come first but students who decide to add the certificate after trying a related course or two will be able to take it later.
- Accelerated Master’s program in Contemporary East Asian Studies
 - *Representative: Ayako Mizumura*
 - Professor Mizumura introduced the new Accelerated Master’s program in Contemporary East Asian Studies and fielded questions.
 - This accelerated master’s will be offered jointly with Global and International Studies (GIST) because Contemporary East Asian Studies (CEAS) does not have an undergraduate program but can provide a lot of added value to GIST students.
 - The program modifies an existing master’s degree by adapting it to a successful model of accelerated master’s programs offered by several programs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.
 - GIST retained authority over the undergraduate curriculum while CEAS was responsible for designing the graduate curriculum.
 - The Council discussed how the credit hours would be counted to ensure completion of both degrees in the accelerated timeframe.
 - They also discussed how the requirements for this program closely parallel those for the existing master’s by leveraging the undergraduate elective hours to get a head start on the master’s requirements.
 - The program will require a thesis.

Policy Proposals

- GTA Term Limits
 - **Second Review**
 - Developed by a work group convened at the request of the Graduate Teaching Assistants’ Coalition (GTAC).
 - The window for campus-wide stakeholder review and feedback closed a couple of weeks prior. The feedback was used to develop a new draft.
 - It returned for a second review, seeking the Council’s recommendation about whether to submit this to the Provost for approval.

- The Council discussed the feedback recommendations to find a middle ground between the old, short term limits and the proposed ones, which they felt were too generous. The compromise indicated a maximum of sixteen semesters in a single department for any combination of degrees or a doctorate alone. This limit aligns with the maximum allowable time to a doctorate: eight years.
 - To account for extenuating circumstances, the Council advised retaining the new petition process.
- Graduate Faculty Appointments
 - **First Review**
 - Recent Guidance from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) has prompted us to revisit the Graduate Faculty Appointments policy again.
 - *Background:* Last May, the Council approved a major revision to the existing policies, condensing from 5 policies to 1 and simplifying the ways that faculty involvement in graduate education was proposed, reviewed, and tracked. The Provost’s Office approved this major revision in June. Since then, IT has been working on making the software updates needed to implement the policy changes, so the new policy has not been fully implemented yet.
 - *New Developments:* Last month, the Office of Faculty Development and Graduate Studies sought further clarification from HLC on a related topic and, in the process, learned that some additional minor changes need to be made before the new policy is implemented.
 - The attached draft of the policy revision adapts the new version of the policy, approved last summer to accommodate these minor changes. It will not match what is currently in the Policy Library at this time.
 - As a result of these developments, the new revisions suggest the following:
 - * Clarification: Appointments to the Graduate Faculty will be required for graduate committee service, only.
 - In future, Faculty Development will have the responsibility for reviewing teaching credentials, including graduate-level teaching.
 - Graduate Studies will continue to review nominations to the Graduate Faculty, which will be required only for individuals serving on graduate exam committees.
 - * Clarification of Graduate Faculty appointment durations: Members of KU’s regular tenured and tenure-track faculty may be appointed indefinitely. Others may be appointed for durations up to five years at a time and renewable indefinitely.
 - * Clarification: All potential members of committees must be nominated, including newly hired tenured and tenure-track faculty, to streamline the process of getting newly-hired faculty into the database in a timely fashion.
 - *Appendix:* A companion policy is also under development by the Vice Provost for Faculty Development. It will align KU’s approach to instructor qualifications with the HLC’s expectations.

Review of Minutes

- 14 December 2018
The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
- 1 February 2019
The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Vote

- Graduate Certificate in Construction Management
Passed with friendly amendment to correct the faculty list
- Graduate Certificate in African-American Studies
Passed
- Accelerated Master's in Contemporary East Asian Studies
Passed
- GTA Term Limits
Forwarded to Provost for final approval
- Graduate Faculty Appointments
Forwarded to Campus-Wide Stakeholder Review