

**Minutes**  
**Graduate Academic Affairs Committee**  
**April 21, 2017**

**Members in Attendance:** A. Miller, A. Kent, A. Kaikati, A. Rellergert, A. Trees, C. Werner, D. Hall, D. Roby, H. Ardizzone, J. Barber, J. Fu, J. Martin, L. McLaughlin, J. Garcia-Martinez, R. Wood, and S. Winton,

**Guest in Attendance:** J. Haugen, M. Goldwasser, K. Mitchell, J.D. Bowen, R. Hindi, and W. Ebel

**Call to Order:** Dr. Wood called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes from the March 24, 2017 meeting:** A motion was made to approve the minutes from the March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Minutes were unanimously approved.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

**Earth Atmospheric Science – Meteorology:**

The primary contact person for this information proposal is Zaitao Pan. This very straightforward Program Change Report changes required courses EAS 5080 and EAS 5090 to elective courses for MS and PhD degree programs due to the courses overlapping content and scheduling conflict. This change was previously approved by A&S. This proposal was informational for purposes of GAAC.

**MS in Software Engineering Proposal by the Department of Computer Science:**

Michael Goldwasser stated that the College of Arts & Sciences are proposing two new masters programs: a Masters in Computer Science and a Masters in Software Engineering. The two proposals have been crafted in a way that both degree programs can be delivered with a common set of courses, common faculty, and common resources.

The software engineering program is more narrowly tailored. It focuses on large scale software development and working with organizations to develop software systems.

The computer science masters is a more broad area. The computer science students will do software development but focuses on a broader set of research oriented questions. They are looking at many different areas: how you might use computer graphics, network design, operating systems, in a broader view of the field of computer science.

William Ebel, Kyle Mitchell, and Riyadh Hindi, all of Parks College, submitted a response to the proposal that was submitted. They object to the degree program as it is currently being purposed. Dr. Goldwasser, in turn, had a response to this response. Both documents are included in the record passed to the Provost.

Rob Wood asked for a motion is to approve the MS in Computer Science. **This unanimously passed and will now move to CADD.**

He also received a motion to approve the MS in Software Engineering. He received a motion, and a second. Ten members voted in favor and four were opposed. **Motion passed and this proposal will now move to CADD.**

**Political Science Change:**

J. D. Bowen represented CAS. He told the group that CAS inherited the Masters of Public Administration degree about five years ago. Last year it lost accreditation for multiple reasons, which included a lack of faculty totally dedicated to the MPA degree.

They are proposing to change the MA in Political Science to a MA in Political Science and Public Affairs in order to highlight that they still are doing public policy work even though we don't have the accredited MPA degree.

They currently have a concentration in Public Policy which they would change to Public Policy and Administration. Once again to highlight to students that even though they are giving up the accredited MPA degree, they are still offering a degree that is functionally similar, just not accredited. They cannot call it MPA because it is not going to be an accredited degree. They will be offering a similar program for that accreditation.

### **Jay Haugen's Updates:**

As noted on the Academic Definition Modification handout, we now have three levels of certificates: Stand-Alone For-Credit Certificates, Embedded For-Credit Certificates, and Non-Credit Certificates. This basically codifies the three certifications that we are already offering on campus.

Embedded Certificates are certificates that can only be completed while a student is in a degree seeking program.

Any student can come off the street to take the Stand-Alone For-Credit Certificate. Current students can also take these certificates.

The more difficult discussion is the double counting of credits. The philosophy behind this is all credits taken at SLU are technically degree credits and therefore, they can count down to certificates. In theory this is saying that you can double-count all of a certificate. When the government came up with rules four years ago, we got most of those. Now the government has made clarifications on the rules that we changed to accommodate. They are now not in place. They recused some of them and others they gave clarifications on.

This also opens the door for stackable certificates. A student could take three or four classes, receive a certificate, take three or four more classes, receive a second certificate, three or four more, get another certificate, etc. Those three or four certificates wrap up to a degree. That is some double counting as well. This is new to SLU but at the same time we have been doing some of this already.

This is a big topic so we cannot discuss it all today. Jay wanted to get this to the members so they can begin to have discussion with their constituents about the certificates as well as all the policies.

Jay has received feedback on the policy changes from a number of units. If people have specific feedback, Jay requested that they send it to him so that he could quickly summarize them for next month. He will read through the questions and give answer to each question.

Jay is hoping to get all of the policies done by the end of the year.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.