

Minutes
Graduate Academic Affairs Committee
January 12, 2018

Members in Attendance: R. Wood, A. Miller, A. Rellergert, E. Carnaghan, H. Ardizzone, J. Barber, J. Garcia-Martinez, J. Martin, M. McCormick, A. Nelson, N. Hebel, J. Nichols, M. Dunn

Call to Order: R. Wood called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: The November Minutes were not ready for approval, and will be approved later.

New Business:

- A. **ASTD Program Change (FYI):** Dr. Ardizzone presented non-substantive changes for the American Studies PhD program. They are reducing the number of coursework credit the program requires by 9, for a 16.7% change. This shift was a response to an internal policy change that reduced the maximum number of Advanced Standing hours for MAs from 30 to 15. This is an informational item only.
- B. **SOC program change (FYI):** Dr. Barber presented this non-substantive change. They are changing their curriculum plan to remove and delete SOC 5100 (3 credits) as a required course, effectively reducing the program by 3 credit hours. They are having their students enroll in Thesis hours instead. This is an informational item only.
- C. **MATH program change (FYI):** The Math PhD program is proposing to award a Master's degree as they are moving through the program so that their students can teach during the summers. The students will still be doing everything that the master's students are doing, and it also helps them to prepare for their qualifying exams. This is an informational item only.
- D. **MARE/THEO Joint Degree Program:** Dr. Mary Dunn from the Department of Theological Studies presented a new joint degree program. The Master of Religious Education ("MARE") program, currently housed in the Department of Theological Studies, will become a joint degree program housed in the Department of Theological Studies in partnership with the School of Education. This program would consist of 36 credit hours, 21 of which would come from Theology to give students a broad theological education, and 15 hours would come from the School of Education to address the students' need for a pedagogical background, specifically Catholic

education and administration. Three of the hours at the School of Education would be a practicum.

This proposal was unanimously approved and will be sent to CADD in February.

- E. Three Minute Thesis Competition: Dr. Wood addressed the group about the possibility of a Three-Minute Thesis competition this Spring semester. He asked the group when a good time would be for this. Most people thought the very end of the semester is a bit too busy. Feedback was requested as to when would be a good time for this competition.

- F. Graduate Education White Paper: Dr. Wood discussed the possibility of creating a 1-2 page document that summarizes the importance of Graduate Education. He referred to the white paper document that was created in 2015. He wants something similar to that but not as long. A copy of that document will be disseminated to the group for discussion in February.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Next Meeting: Friday, February 9, 2018