Graduate Academic Affairs Committee
Saint Louis University
Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday, September 10, 2021


The Graduate Academic Affairs Committee (GAAC) meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

Adoption of the Agenda
The agenda was presented to the committee for approval. The motion passed. The committee adopted the agenda with additions.

Associate Provost’s Remarks
No remarks.

Minutes
The August minutes passed with no corrections.

Correspondence
None

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE:

Dr. James F. Duffy – Medicine Master’s in Medical Sciences
The Master’s in Medical Sciences proposal would allow students to gracefully exit the medical school program, acknowledging their successful completion of the science courses in the pre-clinical phases. There is a master’s program with the same name in another health sciences department; therefore, the name has been changed to reflect officially Master’s in Health Care Sciences.

The committee offered feedback and proposed friendly amendments to address discrepancies. Elizabeth Gockel-Blessing motioned to accept the proposed program with changes. Ted Vitali seconded. Motion passed.
**Jay Haugen – Policy on Independent and Directed Studies**
The Policy on Independent and Directed Studies codifies and defines independent and directed studies. Independent study and directed study are frequently confused with one another. They are similar in that they both offer the opportunity to study individually with an instructor on a contractual basis, but they differ in intent.

Independent study courses will be listed with the subject code of the course topic and a course number of 5980/6980 would be renamed to Graduate Independent Study. Directed study courses will be listed in the course catalog with the same subject code and course number as the traditional course with a section of “DS”. Credit assigned for a directed study course will be set equal to the credit value of the traditional course for which it is to be substituted.

The University Registrar encouraged committee members to seek feedback from department colleagues. The final draft will be discussed at the October meeting.

**Jay Haugen – Policy on Closure and Student Completion**
The Policy on Establishing and Closing Academic Programs a draft policy that codifies and builds upon the University’s practice for establishing new academic programs. It also codifies a process for academic program closure. It identifies steps to ensure the review and endorsement of voluntary or involuntary proposals in a manner that is consistent with shared governance principles.

The University Registrar encouraged committee members to seek feedback from department colleagues. The final draft will be discussed at the October meeting.

**Jay Haugen – Micro-Credentials Definitions**
In creating the micro-credential definitions, the desire is to ensure that academic units have the autonomy and flexibility necessary to leverage multiple uses of micro-credentials across different audiences. Micro-credential has three categories’ academics, skill competencies, and continuing education. There is also a non-credentialing and credentialing aspects to micro-credentials. SLU currently has some of these elements within its existing programs that could immediately fall under the new definition.

The University Registrar encouraged committee members to seek feedback from department colleagues. The final draft will be discussed at the October meeting.

**Dr. Ann Scarlett – Master in Human Resources Law**
The department is proposing a voluntary program closure for the Master’s in Human Resources Law. The program has not been successful over the years in attracting students and no degree has been conferred under this program.

Ted Vitali motioned to accept the proposed program with changes. Helen Lach seconded. Motion passed.
**New Business**
None

**Announcements/Issues**
None

The GAAC adjourned the meeting.

Felicia C. Echols, Ed.D.                      Dr. Robert Wood  
Academic Coordinator                      Associate Provost, Academic Affairs