

**Graduate Academic Affairs Committee  
Saint Louis University  
Committee Meeting Minutes  
Friday, October 14, 2022**

**Voting Members Present:** Dana Baum, Palash Bera, Jen Jen Chang, Elizabeth Gockel-Blessing, Helen Lach, Zhenguo Lin, Joe Lyons, Katie Mascari, J. Mark Pousson, Nicola Pozzi, William Rehg, Kristi Richter, Ness Sandoval, Andrew Solsrud, and April Trees

**Non-voting Members & Regular Guests Present:** LaToya Cash, Felicia Echols, Christine Harper, Jay Haugen, Jennifer Popiel, April Trees

**Absent:** Angela Encinar, Dana Malkus, Montaque Reynolds

The Graduate Academic Affairs Committee (GAAC) meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Welcome and Introduction**

Dr. April Trees

**Adoption of the Agenda**

The agenda was presented to the committee for approval. The chair noted that a third FYI had been added to the agenda for a course change in the Clinical Nursing Program.

**Minutes**

The September minutes were approved with no corrections.

**OLD/ONGOING BUSINESS:**

**Jay Haugen – In-progress Grade Policy**

Jay returned to committee to finalize the In-Progress Grade Graduate Policy for thesis, research, dissertation research, and project guidance. The In-Progress Grade Policy will eliminate the use of IP grades. The In-Progress Grade Graduate Policy would start Fall 2023.

The floor was open for discussion, which focused primarily on implementation as colleges and schools did not have concerns about the policy itself in this discussion. As a part of the implementation process colleges and schools or programs will be asked to include in their graduate handbooks the expectations for Satisfactory grades on Thesis and Dissertation research. If we update current IP grades to fit the policy, we will need to notify programs in advance if current IP grades will be turned to an S so they can confirm the appropriateness of that change.

Ness Sandoval motioned to approve the In-Progress Grade Graduate Policy. Dana Baum seconded. Motion passed.

**Jay Haugen – Draft Microcredentials Policy**

Jay reintroduced the Microcredentials policy that had originally been discussed a year ago. The

major update from previous discussion were changes to the approval processes. will bring back to the committee an updated Microcredentials Policy from the graduate colleges and departments feedback.

Discussion focused on understanding the distinction between the three areas (academic, skills and competencies, and continuing education) and what they involve.

Additional questions from the discussion included:

What admission process will be followed for individuals outside of SLU who want to complete a microcredential? Jay Haugen indicated we would use the visiting student system for students outside of SLU.

Would there be a minimum grade requirement for earning a microcredential? How will we assess learning for skills and competencies credentials? A minimum grade expectation likely needs to be added to the policy.

How are these are transcribed and recognized? Jay Haugen described the electronic badging process he hopes to use with these. The academic microcredential would be on the academic transcript.

How cost is determined for skills and competencies microcredential components as they may not involve coursework? One possibility would be that individual colleges and schools determine this.

Based upon feedback from UAAC, the proposal was modified to indicate all coursework for the microcredential must be completed at SLU.

At the end, the committee concluded that Jay Haugen would update the policy with some of the feedback from today and then committee members would take that back to their constituents for review.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Dr. April Trees – Academic Program Review updates**

April Trees provided some background information on the Executive Summary to Academic Program Review updates outlined edits to the manual and processes to streamline and remove barriers to more timely completion of the review process. There were no questions from the committee members.

### **Jay Haugen – Draft Hold Policy**

Jay Haugen provided the context and general goals for a hold policy and larger conversation about how we use holds, to consider the guidelines for when we should or should not put a hold on. There was general discussion around these issues. Jay has updated the policy to reflect changes requested by UAAC, so he will share the updated policy with GAAC so that committee members can take it back to their constituents for review and feedback.

## **Announcements/Issues**

- Next GAAC meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 11, 2022

The GAAC adjourned the meeting.

Felicia C. Echols, Ed.D.  
Coordinator, Academic Affairs  
Graduate Education

Dr. April Trees  
Interim Associate Provost and Chair,