

**Graduate Academic Affairs Committee
Saint Louis University
Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday, September 09, 2022**

Voting Members Present: Dana Baum, Palash Bera, Michael Elliot, Helen Lach, Zhenguo Lin, Joe Lyons, Dana Malkus, Katie Mascari, Mark Pousson, Nicola Pozzi, William Rehg, Montaque Reynolds, Kristi Richter, Ness Sandoval, Andrew Solsrud

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

Absent: Angela Encinar, Elizabeth Gockel-Blessing

Guests: Michael Lewis, Steven Sanchez

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

Welcome and Introduction

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was presented to the committee for approval. The motion passed. The committee adopted the agenda with no additions.

Associate Provost's Remarks

No remarks

Minutes

The April minutes were approved with no corrections.

Correspondence

None

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE/POLICY/PROGRAM:

Dr. Michael Lewis – Academic Strategic Plan

Provost Lewis identified components of the Academic Strategic Plan that will intersect specifically with the work of GAAC and their curricular oversight. This includes:

- goals and actions related to evidence-based, learning-centered and inclusive instruction
- growth in Madrid and the need to have policies and processes that are updated to be more inclusive of our Madrid colleagues. We need to develop a culture that we are one university
- partnerships with other institutions (e.g., Jesuit Education Worldwide Learning)
- the potential development of a secondary campus in the Southwest.

The Provost wrapped up by saying that the approach to the Academic Strategic Plan he envisions over the next three years is iterative. He also indicated awareness that resources will be required to

achieve our goals.

Dr. Steve Sanchez – Curricular and Assessment/Institutional Accreditation Standards

Steve discussed HLC requirements and the current process for SLU's accreditation and highlighted key areas relevant to GAAC.

He also explained that HLC accreditation is in place to improve institutional quality and achievement of outcomes through peer review and to ensure compliance with external requirements from the federal government.

Jay noted the importance of accurate catalog content given HLC expectations as well.

Jay Haugen – Staff Changes in the Registrar's Office

Jay announced two new additions to the Office of the Registrar:

- Theresa Friedrich, Assistant Director of Curriculum Records, will learn the curricula in the catalog, keep the catalog up-to-date, and work with DegreeWorks.
- Nicole Mispagel, Assistant Registrar for Academic Partnerships, will facilitate developing and implementing academic partnerships that others have identified to develop.

Jay Haugen – Policy Changes

Jay explained the format for policy proposals reviewed by GAAC. Documents will show the current language, proposed changes, and provide a description of changes.

IP Grade Policy:

For the In-progress Grade Policy, in-progress grades are currently used for thesis, research, dissertation research, and project guidance. This proposal would eliminate the use of IP grades there.

The proposal would shift us from using IP until the final semester and would indicate whether or not student work was unsatisfactory or satisfactory in that semester. Please note that students' experiments could fail, and they could still be making progress, so the shift does not require that everything go perfectly in a semester to earn an S.

Notes

- The policy also helps DegreeWorks, the new degree evaluation tool, because dissertation credits do not all show on the degree audit.
- Satisfactory on the dissertation credits is not equivalent to satisfactory on the completion of the dissertation.
- Receiving an "S" doesn't mean you've successfully completed the dissertation as a requirement for the degree.
- Employers often require a grade rather than an IP for tuition reimbursement and this would also address that.
- Keeping the IPs on clerkships, clinicals, and internships because the work can fall outside our semester sometimes. Dissertation and thesis progress falls within our semester.
- A question was raised about whether or not this would also apply to 0 credit hour 5990 or

6990 registration, and it would.

Action Items

- Request for guidance surrounding policy changes that should accompany this for graduate handbooks to delineate what kind of work for each program would merit unsatisfactory
- Members were encouraged to discuss this with their constituents, as we will vote on it at our next meeting

Draft Holds Policy

- Jay will share an updated document regarding the draft policy and recommended changes from the UAAC meeting.

Dr. April Trees - Program Change Notifications

April indicated a change in how non substantial changes will be handled at GAAC.

Going forward, new programs, closing programs, and substantial program changes will be open for discussion and committee vote.

Program changes that are not substantial will not receive a discussion or committee vote. However, these notifications will be housed in a file and listed on the agenda for information purposes. The exception will be if the change has consequences for other programs where interdependence has not been discussed.

If a member would like to address a program change, they would need to send a request to add it to the next meeting agenda for discussion.

New Business

Announcements/Issues

- Microcredentials will be discussed at the October meeting
- Graduate Education will host Professional Development Workshop Series for graduate student this year
- Next GAAC meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 14, 2022

The GAAC adjourned the meeting.

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

Dr. April Trees
Interim Associate Provost, Graduate Education,
and Chair