

**Graduate Academic Affairs Committee
Saint Louis University
Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday, November 12, 2021**

Present: Martha Allen, Latoya Cash, Marissa Cope, Felicia C. Echols, Noelle Fearn, Jesus Garcia-Martinez, Elizabeth Gockel-Blessing, Christine Harper, Riyadh Hindi, Helen Lach, Joe Lyons, Hisako Matsuo, Shreya Nagendra, J. Mark Pousson, Ann Scarlett, Christopher Thomas, April Trees, Theodore Vitali, and Robert Wood

Excused: Christopher Arnatt, Anthony Breitbach, David Cassens, Michael Elliot, Audra Frick, Stacey Harrington, Jay Haugen, William Rehg, Simona Rentea, Kristi Richter, Steven Sanchez, and Abigail Schnell

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

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 October minutes passed with no corrections.

Correspondence

None

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE:

**Dr. Noelle Fearn – College of Public Health & Social Justice - Master of Science
Epidemiology and Biostatistics**

The Master of Science Epidemiology and Biostatistics has had very few students in this program (< 5 in the last 10 years). The accreditors require the department to assess students on the competencies for the degree. The amount of work it will take to plan an assessment strategy for a few students is not a good use of faculty time. FYI, the assessment for the accreditors focuses only on assessing the competencies, not the program as SLU's assessment requires and is, therefore, an additional assessment approach. Currently, only one student enrolled in the program and will finish his degree in December of 2022.

The faculty in the department unanimously agreed to close the program. The GAAC committee also unanimously agreed to the closure.

**Dr. Noelle Fearn – College of Public Health & Social Justice: School of Social Work –
Master of Science Applied Behavior Analysis**

The College of Public Health & Social Justice: School of Social Work proposes launching an MS ABA program online and dividing it into two concentrations (practitioner track and scientist track). The new track, MS ABA Practitioner Track, would be the same as the MS ABA Scientist Track program, which is the current program, with one exception: the thesis component is removed from the degree requirement. The removal of the thesis reduces the credit hours (by four (4)), thus requiring a total of 35 credit hours to complete the MS ABA Practitioner Track degree (as compared to 39 total credit hours for the MS ABA Scientist Track degree). This will increase enrollment in the overall Applied Behavior Analysis program, provide more visibility to Saint Louis University, and help strengthen the overall program. An online program will also ensure that Saint Louis University remains competitive in the changing landscape as more students explore to access online education.

The proposal was sent back to the department to have the Distancing Education Committee (DEC) look at the proposal for review. Once the department receives approval by DEC, the proposal will be sent back to GAAC for consideration.

New Business

Graduate Education will develop a step-by-step process for when DEC should review proposed program changes.

Hisako Matsuo expressed her concern with IRB requiring faculty training, delays with timely approvals for research, and other approval issues. Dr. Woods has asked that Hisako Matsuo, Jesus Garcia-Martinez, and Shreya Nagendra put together a comprehensive outline of IRB problems with a recommendation for improvements to the vice president and provost with a carbon copy to the chair of GAAC. This issue will place on the December agenda for a follow-up.

Announcements/Issues

The GAAC adjourned the meeting.

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

Dr. Robert Wood
Associate Provost, Academic Affairs