

Graduate Council Meeting
August 29, 2023 • 3:00-4:30p • ZOOM
Minutes

Attendance:

Quorum: 10 (Current membership = 21)

Name of Member		Name of Member	
P. Berkelman, ENGR - A	x	N. Tarui, CSS- P	x
W. Buente, CSS - A	x	H. Tavares, COE - C	x
K.F. Cheung, SOEST - A	x	A. Tse, SONDH - C	x
J. Chung-Do, TSSWPH - A	x	P. Williams, CNS - C	EXC
Kara Miller, CALL - A	x	J. Yoshioka, COE - P	x
T. Grüter, CALL - P	x	C. Stephenson, MFS - P	x
A. Mawyer, CALL - C	EXC	MFS - P	TBD
P. Nerurkar CTAHR - P	x	Arby Barone, GSO	x
J. Stilgenbauer, ARCH/SCB/HSHK - C	x	GSO	TBD
E. Szarmes, CNS - C	x		
M. Tallquist, JABSOM - A	x	J. Maeda, GD	x

*A = AAA Committee; C = Course Committee; P = Program Committee; **bold** = chair

Alternate(s)		Alternate(s)	
Derrick Higginbotham, CALL-for A. Mawyer	x	Edo Biagioni, MFS for to be named rep	
			n=18

Guest: E. Biagioni, past MFS representative

Announcements/Reminders

- Welcome to Jane Chung-Do, TSSWPH representative & Carolyn Stephenson, MFS SEC representative
- Introductions
- Fall 2023 Meeting Dates (Tuesday, 3:00-4:30 p.m.)
 - August 29, September 26, October 24, November 28, December 12
- Graduate Division Dean's Office Hours
 - Thursday, September 21, 2023: 12:00-1:00 p.m.
 - Monday, October 23, 2023: 2:00-3:00 p.m.
 - Wednesday, November 15, 2023: 1:00-2:00 p.m.
- Graduate Assembly: Thursday, November 30, 2023; 3:00-4:30pm via Zoom
- Orientations for Course, AAA, and Program committees to be scheduled

Old Business

- Approval of May 9, 2023 minutes.
 - **Motion to Approve: 14 in Favor; 0 Opposed; 1 Abstention**

Discussion

- Change to Master's degree en route to PhD requirement: allow Plan A Thesis as an option? Currently only Plan B path is used.
 - This was not discussed at the May meeting.

- For programs that allow students direct admission to their PhD program after a bachelor's degree, those students may earn a master's degree enroute. Historically for students who opted to earn the master's degree enroute the Plan B option has been what programs have used. Research students were doing as as a PhD student was used toward publications or toward their eventual dissertation, rather than a master's thesis. A program had inquired as to whether a Plan A thesis could be completed rather than a Plan B paper for a master's degree enroute. There was some discussion on this topic. The advantages were that the student could graduate with a master's thesis, they would also build skills in research, and experience the research necessary for a thesis. There did not appear to be any negatives as this would be an option, either Plan A or Plan B for a master's degree to be earned enroute to a doctorate.
- K. Miller shared that the MFA in the merged Theatre and Dance program switched to a Plan B for their MFA. She cited the workload involved in a creative project and the written document that they now require. She acknowledged that it is different from a thesis, but they saw more advantages for their students with a Plan B option than Plan A, but understands the differences in different departments when it comes to Plan A and Plan B outcomes for the master's degree. A motion was made to approve this change to allow a Plan A thesis to be completed to earn a master's degree enroute to a PhD.
- **Motion to Approve: 15 in Favor; 0 Opposed; 0 Abstentions**
- Review of BAM Guidelines – assigned to AAA committee to review guidelines and provide recommendations to help improve this pathway.
 - This program started around 2017 or 2018 with one program and has grown to over 30 campus-wide with many internally between undergraduate and graduate programs in the same department as well as across undergraduate and graduate programs in different colleges/schools. Some of the challenges mentioned by members whose program includes a BAM pathway included the high workload for students, time conflicts of double-counted courses with required bachelor's degree classes between the two programs, and some students were not getting prerequisite courses. Scheduling the double-counted courses was mentioned as a challenge.
 - A question was asked about how this pathway is doing. J. Maeda reported that there are over 30 pathways now, but not all have students in them. Some have a steady stream of students from 1-2 to 10 or so each term/year.
 - Another question was asked if there was any way to see how many students finished the pathway and if they did not, why not? J. Maeda reported that there are students who do not finish the pathway for various reasons and there would not be an efficient way to know why they don't finish. Any reasons may only be known by the program.
- New MFA degrees to require less than 60 credits?
 - With two programs currently working on proposals for new MFA degrees the question of whether or not they could request to have a MFA degree require less than 60 credits was raised. It is typical for those pursuing a MFA to be required to complete 60 cr. Per K. Miller, a 60 cr MFA has been the standard across Dance programs. Awareness of peers across the country is something MFA programs will typically have of each other.
 - A question was raised as to why Graduate Division and the Graduate Council should be involved in setting requirements for a degree when programs and their

faculty would have the expertise to know what is best? Graduate Division upholds and maintains all policies and procedures with regard to degree programs and credit requirements for all graduate programs it administers. Master's degrees have a minimum 30 credit requirement and up to now, MFA degrees have a 60 credit requirement. J. Maeda responded that she would look into if WASC has any policies related to MFA credit requirements.

- For the programs proposing a new MFA, in particular, Creative Writing (CW), there are several such programs who require less than 60 credits. J. Maeda reported that guests to share information about both new MFA proposals would be invited to the next meeting. Some questions for the guests to be addressed:
 - What are the differences between a MA and MFA in terms of outcomes?
 - If a MFA in CW is approved, will the MA in English, CW track be kept?
 - What are trends in other programs nationally for the two new MFAs to be proposed?

- Adding degree-related concentrations to the online admissions application

- With the new admissions application for graduate students there is a possibility to include concentrations/tracks to the application. This is mainly for those programs that have officially approved concentrations/ tracks. This way applicants may apply for admissions directly to the concentration/track in which they're interested. Programs may no longer need to use their own internal application to learn which concentration/track the applicant is interested in being considered. Discussion on this topic was mixed between the advantages and challenges. Some advantages that came up were having a clearer path into a concentration/track and to have the concentration/track printed on a student's transcript and diploma. Another advantage that was raised was being able to show an area of expertise/focus and have it recognized. However, there seemed to be more challenges raised; this approach would lock one into that concentration/track; students potentially would be pigeon-holed into one concentration/track. Additionally, what would happen if a student wanted to change their concentration/track as well as potential confusion by applicants on the tracks. K. Miller shared that the BA and BFA in Theatre and Dance include their tracks on the application. J. Maeda asked the members to share this question with their respective college/school colleagues to gather feedback on potentially including graduate concentrations and tracks on the admissions application. There was some confusion about this request by the members with a suggestion made for a Google Survey to be used to help ensure this request was shared in the same way by all members. J. Maeda will create a Google Survey to be shared with the members to share with their colleagues.

Adjourned: 4:30p

Next Meeting: September 26, 2023