

Graduate Council Meeting
October 15, 2024 • 3:00-4:30p • ZOOM
Minutes

Attendance: 18 (2)

Quorum: 11 (Current membership = 21)

Name of Member		Name of Member	
J. Ai, SCB/HSHK/ARCH - A	x	E. Szarmes, CNS - A	x
R. Black, EDU - A	x	N. Tarui, CSS- P	x
T. Osborne, CALL - A	x	A. Tse, SONDH - P	x
W. Buente, CSS - P -co chair Fall	x	S. Verma, JABSOM - C	x
K.F. Cheung, SOEST - P	x	A. Wright, CNS - C	x
J. Chung-Do, TSSWPH - C	x	M. Wright, CTAHR - A	x
D. Higginbotham, CALL - C	x	C.Stephenson, MFS - P	x
M. Menchaca, EDU - C	x	C.Baker, MFS - P	x
K. Miller, CALL - P	x	GSO - Shannon McClish, alternate (gsosust)	ABS
L. Shen, ENGR - C	EXC	GSO	
		R. Ka'aloa, GD	x
		J. Maeda, GD	x

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

Alternate(s)		Alternate(s)	
Chunhee Cho for L. Shen	x		

Guests: M. Kataoka-Yahiro, L. Wong, & C. Nunokawa, NAWSON; A. Sherwood, P. Williams, G. Poisson, M. Belcaid, & L. Higa, CNS-ICS; S. Aurigemma & B. Xiao, SCB, J. Zuern, ENG

Call to Order: 3:00 pm

Announcements/Reminders

- AY 24-25 Meetings:
 - Fall 2024: November 12, December 10
 - Spring 2025: January 28, February 25, March 25, April 15, May 6
- Future Graduate Assembly Meetings, Thursday, 3:00-4:30 pm:
 - Fall 2024: November 21
 - Spring 2025: April 24

Old Business

- Approval of September 17, 2024 minutes
 - No comments, questions, or edits.
 - **Motion to Approve the September 17, 2024 minutes: 16 in Favor; 0 Opposed; 0 Abstentions**
- NAWSON-Nursing DNP Program Modification (originally discussed May 7, 2024)
 - Course committee asked for a more detailed explanation regarding the variable course credits in NURS 756 and for clarity around how the student will meet their course requirements over three semesters. Additionally, they recommended more clarification in

the syllabus to include a calendar and to address the pass/fail assignments that were not factored into the final grade.

- Nursing responded that students would be allowed to repeat the course and have 2 semesters summer/fall to complete; if a student needed more time they could take an I and complete in Spring.
- Nursing will clarify the recommendations in the syllabus, integrate a calendar and for all the courses that include pass/fail assignments they will revise to incorporate those assignments into the final scoring.

Motion to Approve NURS 755, NURS 756, NURS757 with requested revisions to be reviewed by Graduate Division: 17 in Favor; 0 Opposed; 0 Abstentions

Program committee was in support and asked for discussion on how faculty workload would be impacted by the new program modification

- Nursing replied that DNP faculty and non-clinical faculty are included as part of this program modification and they have sufficient faculty for the 30 students projected in this program.

Motion to Approve NAWSON-Nursing DNP Program Modification: 17 in Favor; 0 Opposed; 0 Abstentions

New Business

- CNS-ICS New Degree and GCERT Proposals
 - Professional Master's in Computer Science (PMCS)
 - Program committee was in support overall, but asked for clarification on the following points
 - Discussion on if the online courses will have less academic rigor than in person version
 - ICS replied that it is not less rigorous, but more hands on/practical than theory based. In the plan for the series of courses, the first is very theoretical and the others are more applied. The approach is an emphasis for the applied practitioner to supplement their skill sets that will come from the GCERT as a foundation and build in the PMCS.
 - Can students in the regular MS program take those courses?
 - ICS replied courses are open, but will not be able to fill the MS program requirements as they do not emphasize the depth in theory in the MS program.
 - Will the courses fit cases in Hawai'i?
 - ICS replied that they are using their existing undergraduate capstone courses as a foundation to leverage the connections,

collaborations, and networks with these partners to bring a more Hawai'i focused and Hawai'i centric program.

- Discuss your admission policies, as it will be open to students from many disciplines.
 - ICS replied that the PMCS is quite specialized. They will accept students from different backgrounds as long as they have an undergraduate degree. In their work with high school students and others, there is a trend that leans on generative AI tools that did not exist earlier that is making it easier to take someone from any discipline and support their growth in Computer Science (CS) as a practitioner of CS. With the support of these new generative AI tools, it is easier to teach and for these students to gain foundations in CS, then build the products, evaluate code, and even analyze the data to make improvements. One example shared was how their labs have seen the success in students writing code with generative AI without being a coder.
- Discussed the differences between the GCERT and the PMCS and if this is written in the proposal.
 - ICS replied that those students in the GCERT would not be those that would apply to the MS in CS. Additionally, not all the students in the GCERT would be admitted into the PMCS, only those who are successful. The GCERT and PMCS populations could be very different, but they do see the GCERT as foundational to building skills to enter into the PMCS without an ICS background.
 - ICS confirmed it is written in the proposal.

Motion to approve PMCS proposal : 18 in Favor; 0 Opposed; 0 Abstentions

- Course committee shared their feedback and asked for clarity on the following main areas:
 - They suggested that for all the courses ICS use a consistent syllabi format for clarity and suggested using the OVPAE template and including mapped program and advanced degree learning objectives.
 - ICS will revise the syllabi
 - Asked to specify the type and form (flavor) of generative AI work in these courses, as not able to cover all of AI expertise.
 - ICS clarified that they purposely want to be AI agnostic to the disciplines as much as possible. The courses are scaffolded for students in ICS 603 and 604 to act as a co-pilot with the AI and allow their projects to determine the AI to be implemented. They will add this background to their description for the courses.

- It was not clear from the course descriptions, if there was a sequence to the courses or a particular order that they would be taken by students?
 - ICS replied that no course is prereq to the others. It is advised that GCERT courses should be completed first as a foundation for the more advanced courses and the PMCS work. ICS advising would give them the optimal sequence. The Course committee recommended designing an optimal course sheet for students.
- ICS 609, Course committee recommended more clarification on how the course will be managed
 - ICS explained that they see this course as working with their undergraduate students in a possible stacking course that would provide experience for group project work and mentoring on both levels for undergraduate and graduate students. ICS will clarify in the description of the course.

Motion to Approve ICS 601, ICS 602, ICS 603, ICS 604, ICS 605, ICS 609 courses pending suggested modifications: 18 in Favor; 0 Opposed; 0 Abstentions

- Graduate Certificate in Applied Computing (AC)
 - Course committee expressed similar questions as was discussed with the PMCS:
 - Council members again clarified with ICS that students completing the GCERT can apply to enter the PMCS if they have sufficient grades and recommendation from a faculty member (need to have 1 semester overlap). The capstone projects for both the GCERT and PMCS need to be distinct and different.
 - Is the academic standard different, especially when allowing students from different backgrounds to be admitted - what is the plan to address this disparity?
 - ICS responded that as shared in the PMCS discussion, the GCERT is focused on less theory and more practical/applied projects. The use of generative AI tools supports all disciplines to design, model, and analyze projects. These tools can work together for student group projects to have a good result and are increasingly easy for success by those without a background in CS.
 - The Course committee found a misalignment between the Program Learning Objectives (PLO), Student Learning Objectives (SLO) and the larger goals of the GCERT. For example, programming should be included as a PLO because ICS 603 and 604 relies heavily on Python programming. Looking over the syllabus, one of the course learning objectives is to teach programming in Python (603). On page 10, the GCERT will meet the growing demand for technology skills, yet, PLO 1 refers to something that isn't necessarily related to applied computing. Additionally there is an absence of reference to the advanced degree ILOs for a graduate program or course.

- ICS responded that they will revise their PLO 1. They clarified that it is their program objective to have students from different disciplines to support working together and with new generative AI tools, they will reconsider how they list PLOs and will revise.

Motion to approve the GCERT in Applied Computing (AC) with attention to suggested changes: 18 in Favor; 0 Opposed; 0 Abstentions

- SCB-MSIS Program Modification
 - The Program Committee review was favorable. The committee discussed with MSIS:
 - Will the expansion of elective courses dilute student enrollment and impact faculty workload?
 - MSIS responded that they have planned for this workload similar to their 431 level course. They also have very few electives now and this just gives the students more choice in this specific area and these electives will be shared with other Masters programs in Shidler.
 - In the justification for modification, is there any overlap with similar courses?
 - MSIS responded that they have considered the other courses in ICS and ECE, but do not see an overlap of concepts as the perspective and the application is different. These courses are not theory based, but more about designing for business operations and application.

Motion to approve MSIS Program Modification by Wayne, seconded by Jhalak: 18 in Favor; 0 Opposed; 0 Abstentions

- The Course Committee liked the strong justifications and recommended for both courses to use the OVPAE template for syllabi for consistency and to include all relevant information (e.g. Title IX information).
- For ITM 654 on the UHM-1 Form - Check frequency as “Summer” was not selected but was in justification narrative. Additionally, in the syllabus there is reference to BUS 311 that is confusing and there is a typo listing ITM 354 that should be ITM 654.
 - MSIS will revise the syllabi to include all relevant information, make corrections, and remove BUS 311 as it is not needed there.

Motion to approve both ITM 631 and ITM 654 with suggested course modifications as suggested: 17 in Favor; 0 Opposed; 0 Abstentions

- SCB BBA-MIS+MSIS BAM Program Modification
 - Program committee asked for clarification on the following points:
 - There was a question on further justification for the reasoning for the program modification and the impact of COVID.

- MSIS explained that the BAM started right as COVID kicked off and the impacts to the points of contacts with outside agencies changed over COVID. Post-COVID many of these agencies needed to rebuild and the program needed to look at their Masters programs and what MSIS students needed at this point in time. With survey of students, these modifications were supported while also reestablishing partnerships with the agencies needed for the program.
- Clarification was requested about which courses are being used for double counting?
 - MSIS explained that they experienced low student enrollment because students were taking the BAM courses prior to declaring their BAM, so they were losing some students this way. ITM 631 has no graduate level prerequisites, but the courses are sequenced to be taken in order, which will allow more students to declare their BAM. ITM 354/654 and electives could also be double counted to benefit students in the BAM.
- Discuss current enrollment and expected enrollment after this modification
 - MSIS reported that enrollment last semester Fall 2023 was at 13 new enrolls - Fall 2024 has 21 enrollments (55% coming from their undergraduate enrollment). There are currently not enough opportunities to double count so students bypass BAM and go straight to MSIS. These suggested BAM modifications will allow more courses for double counting and with better advising will support students to enter the BAM and have the opportunity to double count a course at the 400 level.
 - MSIS projects that their future enrollment with this modification would see a 50% uptake of BAM students and as they recruit them earlier, which would see about an increase of 4-5 more students a year.

Motion to Approve the MIS+MSIS BAM program modification: 16 in Favor; 0 Opposed; 0 Abstentions

- CALL-ENG New MFA Degree Proposal
 - Program committee found that the program was clearly articulated with a demand and justification statement.
 - There was discussion of a few areas for clarification:
 - The number of credits required for the MFA seems low at 39 in relation to many three year 60 credit MFA programs in other artistic disciplines nationally.
 - J. Zuern responded that they looked at a number of models across the country to distinguish between 2 year and 3 year MFAs. This is a 2 year MFA, which would allow students to finish quickly similar to the robust curriculum in the MA in ENG Creative Writing sub-field. The lower credit

count is comparable across the country and is on par with other 2 year MFA programs that also emphasize a thesis product.

- Will this program overlap with the Theatre MFA track in playwriting?

J. Zuern responded that he had a conversation with Theatre & Dance Director Markus Wessendorf and there is currently no overlap as their genres are different and what students write about is different. English is focused on writing - fiction and non-fiction, while THEA courses focus on playwriting and screenwriting. There is a clear division of expertise and labor between our two departments.

- The Graduate Council meeting ended and the following agenda items will be moved to the November meeting agenda.
 - CALL-ENG New MFA Degree Proposal
 - ENG 620 New Course
 - CALL-ENG MA Program Modification

Adjourned: 4:35 pm

Next Meeting: November 12, 2024