

**Graduate Academic Affairs Committee– Meeting Minutes**  
**Saint Louis University**  
**Friday, January 10, 2025**

**Voting Members Present:** Sebastian Arteaga, Dana Baum, Toby Benis, Helen Lach, Zhenguo Lin, Dana Malkus, Katie Mescari, Srikanth Mudigonda, Rabia Rahman, Kristi Richter, Ness Sandoval, Chris Thomas, Ashley Yukihiro

**Voting Members Absent:** Steve McMillin, Takako Nomi, Katie Stamatakis

**Non-voting Members Present:** Marissa Cope, Jay Haugen, Janie Henderson, Jen Popiel, April Trees.

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Approval of Minutes** Minutes Approved.

III. **Program Updates**

A. **Old Business**

1. **New Program Proposals**

**750: Information Systems Consulting PBC**

Dr. Mudigonda shared the requested updates to the program proposal with GAAC. Questions about assessment plans and reports and their availability were raised during discussion. Ms. Cope explained that SLU assessment reports are not currently available on the website. However, anyone can reach out to her to request assessments. GAAC unanimously approved the PBC.

B. **New Business**

1. **Program Change Proposals**

**499: Artificial Intelligence, M.S.** (Dr. Baum represented Computer Science) CS wants to create and establish foundational courses for students with and without an AI background. During discussion, GAAC members asked about the breakdown of course electives for students with and without a CS background. They requested that the department offer better clarification of what is being required of whom. They also noted the need for clarity in language (e.g., foundational is used for more than one category of courses). Foundational courses are not currently visible in the proposed curriculum. This needs to be better articulated in order for students to know when students need to complete foundational courses, and when they do not. Students should know when they are admitted to the program what courses they will need to take. Dr. Sandoval suggested the program might offer the placement test online at the time of

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admission in order to improve transparency. Mr. Arteaga suggested choosing a different label to use instead of “foundational,” to minimize confusion.

GAAC decided to delay voting so that the program could address these concerns. Dr. Trees will go back to the department, share feedback from today’s discussion and ask that they submit a revision that addresses these issues.

**2. Program Closures**

**106: Public and Social Policy, PhD (Ness Sandoval).**

This program is currently co-directed by Sociology, Anthropology and Political Science. Dr. Sandoval explained that Political Science will no longer have the capacity to continue teaching courses as a part of the PhD program. Since it is a joint program, the department feels that there are too many changes that are needed to do any modification. They have made the decision to teach out and close the program. Currently there are 20 enrolled students, most of whom have completed all required courses. A plan is in place to offer any needed courses and to ensure mentoring for those working on their dissertation now.

GAAC voted unanimously to close the program.

**112: French MA (Jen Popiel)**

The master’s program does not have the personnel support to continue to offer the degree. It is also not attracting students at the moment. Dr. Popiel noted that there is a possibility to resurrect and retool the program in the future. The department has proposed to temporarily discontinue admissions to the program. GAAC discussed the reasoning about temporary versus permanent closure of the program.

GAAC voted unanimously to temporarily close the program.

**IV. Adjournment** Meeting adjourned at 10:15am.