

Graduate Academic Affairs Committee– Meeting Minutes
Saint Louis University
Friday, March 14, 2025

Voting Members Present: Sebastian Arteaga, Dana Baum, Zhenguo Lin, Dana Malkus, Katie Mescari, Srikanth Mudigonda, Nicola Pozzi, Rabia Rahman, Kristi Richter, Ness Sandoval, Katie Stamatakis, Chris Thomas, Ashley Yukihiro

Non-voting Members Present: Marissa Cope, Christine Harper, Jay Haugen, April Trees

Voting Members Absentee: Toby Benis, Helen Lach, Steve McMillin, Takako Nomi

Guests: Michael Boyle, Jason Fritts

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of February 2025 Minutes: Approved.

III. Program Updates

A. Old Business

1. Program Change Proposals

- **377: Analytics, M.S.**
GAAC had requested that a list of approved electives be published in the course catalog for visibility, which was done. GAAC approved unanimously.
- **399: Information Systems, M.S.**
GAAC had requested that the program clarify its list of electives and requirements, which was done. GAAC approved unanimously.
- **499: Artificial Intelligence, M.S.** (Jason Fritts)
GAAC approved unanimously contingent upon the following modifications: the term “foundations” should be changed to “principles” in the electives description; continuation standards should be moved to the course requirements section; and two courses whose descriptions are the same need to be clearly differentiated, one being a lab.

B. New Business

1. Program Change Proposals

- **493: Chemical Sciences, M.S.**
The department pulled the proposal back to add clarity. GAAC voted unanimously only on the name and degree change from the M.A. in Chemistry to the M.S. in Chemical Sciences.

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- **307: *Speech, Language, and Hearing Science, M.S.***
The program change needs to be more clearly presented in the curriculum section. The majority of the discussion was related to whether or not and in what conditions undergraduate courses should be a part of a graduate program's curriculum. The Registrar will be sending out guidance on various issues related to this. Discussion followed mainly on the need to clarify which undergraduate and graduate courses are prerequisites for admission and which are required preparatory work; preparatory work would not fulfill program requirements, but students would be fully admitted as they complete it. The Registrar drew an analogy with similar Ph.D. requirements in the School of Education. It is expected that the proposal be consistent with discipline and assessment standards. GAAC approved contingent upon changes to clarify language in the admissions section, improved clarity on the structure in the curriculum, and the inclusion in the catalogue of a grade standard of C for leveling classes (which was not currently in the catalog section, but noted in the proposed changes). There was one abstention and one dissent.
- **584: *Computer Science, M.S.***
It was suggested that now would be a good time to review assessment plans, which date from 2018-2019. GAAC approved unanimously contingent upon the removal of an inadvertent repetition of the foundation section later in the document.
- **196: *Women's and Gender Studies, Graduate Minor***
No representative of the program was present. Mr. Arteaga suggested that a more detailed roadmap would be beneficial for students. It was proposed that all graduate minors (this is one of two) should be replaced by certificates. The proposal was tabled while Dr. Trees goes back to the program with this suggestion.

2. New Program Proposals

- **759: *Inclusive Catholic School Leadership, PBC (Michael Boyle)***
The proposal is based on a similar curriculum at Loyola-Chicago that aims to help Catholic schools address the needs of students with disabilities. GAAC approved unanimously contingent upon two of the suggested courses being approved by the School of Education.

IV. Other Business

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A question was raised about which body regulates student/instructor ratios; quality should not be sacrificed to quantity under the impact of budget issues. Dr. Trees replied that it may be Group B under Project Team 2 that addresses minimum/maximum class size. She will investigate whether a member of the group might come to a future GAAC meeting and report back in April.

V. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:23 AM.