

Graduate Academic Affairs Committee– Meeting Minutes
Saint Louis University
Friday, April 11, 2025

Voting Members Present: Sebastian Arteaga, Dana Baum, Carly Koppe, Helen Lach, Zhenguo Lin, Dana Malkus, Srikanth Mudigonda, Rabia Rahman, Kristi Richter, Takako Nomi, Chris Thomas

Non-voting Members Present: Christine Harper, April Trees, Jennifer Popiel, Jay Haugen

Voting Members Absent: Toby Benis, Steve McMillin, Katie Mescari, Nicola Pozzi, Ness Sandoval, Katie Stamatakis

Guests: Kathryn Pierce, SOE; Sarah Burt, Katherine Walcott, GSA reps-elect

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of March 2025 Minutes: Approved.

III. Program Updates

A. Old Business

- **196: Women's and Gender Studies minor**

Dr. Trees had been asked to consult with the program about closing the minor. The program is no longer able to offer one course due to the instructor's leaving the University and needs permission now to replace it. There will be time this year to transition from offering both a PBC and a minor to offering only the PBC and to clarify the roadmap as requested. The audience for the minor was internal (Ph.D. students) while that of the PBC is external. GAAC unanimously approved the program change.

B. New Business

1. Program Change Proposals

- **252: Curriculum and Instruction, Ph.D. (Kathryn Pierce)**

A steady decline in the number of students for the second Ph.D. program in Educational Policy and Equity has led to the need to close that program to focus on Curriculum and Instruction. The former iteration of this program contained five strands in the effort to be all things to all people; offerings have been streamlined and core courses have been reduced to 18. The final degree comprises 48 total credit hours with the possibility to apply six hours of advanced standing. Dr. Pierce reported that the assessment plan has been done but not yet uploaded. Outcomes from Educational Policy and

Graduate Academic Affairs Committee– Meeting Minutes
Saint Louis University
Friday, April 11, 2025

Equity have been incorporated to reflect the identity that distinguishes SLU from other local institutions. In August SOE will work on the roadmap by fitting all courses to the new emphasis and relating them to the outcomes. Questions were put regarding whether students currently finishing the Curriculum and Instruction Ph.D. were aware of the changing emphasis and how that new emphasis would be communicated to any incoming students. Discussion emphasized the need to see the assessment plan before voting on the issue, and it was decided that an electronic vote could be taken next week after the plan is uploaded, contingent upon clarifying the number of credit hours in the program in the catalog entry and the understanding that students admitted for fall be clear on the lens change.

- **253: Educational Equity, M.A. (Kathryn Pierce)**
The original master's was a general one in educational principles and practices intended as professional development for teachers. Of the three strands offered only one, inclusive practices, had a firm cohort of students. All strands have been pulled together into one degree providing a smooth transition into the Ph.D. program; there is now an opportunity for students to take one of the three research courses required for the Ph.D. The assessment plan has yet to be uploaded, but core courses have been identified. A question was raised as to whether incoming students without relevant course content in their master's degrees would have to take some kind of foundational courses before proceeding to the Ph.D. Dr. Pierce replied that no extra courses would be required, and that the students' personal backgrounds and statements would demonstrate their alignment with the focus of the Ph.D. program. An electronic vote will take place next week after the assessment plan has been uploaded.

2. New Program Proposals

- **753: Catholic School Principalship Bridge, PBC**
Consideration was delayed until May since the deadline for adding new programs to the catalogue has passed and time did not permit discussion.

3. Program Closure Proposals

- **251: Advanced Literacy Methods, PBC**
GAAC approved unanimously.

Graduate Academic Affairs Committee– Meeting Minutes
Saint Louis University
Friday, April 11, 2025

- **257: Educational Equity and Policy, Ph.D.**
The program currently has no applicants. GAAC unanimously approved closure.
- **404: Professional Studies, M.P.S.**
Removed from consideration to allow the program to address some issues.

IV. Other Business

- **Dual-listing Policy**
The policy will not be voted on until next month since this was the first GAAC had seen of it. There is a difference between cross-listed courses, which are the exact same courses with different subject codes, and dual-listed courses, which must be different as they are offered across academic levels; students meet different expectations depending on their level.
- **Academic Program Review Manual Updates**
The provost's office is suggesting updates to the manual. UACC wants the proposed changes to go to department chairs for feedback before it votes, so GAAC should postpone its own vote. Dr. Trees presented some background on the changes: to improve efficiency, accreditation needs should be compared to the review process, so that the only reports needed would be on gaps between the two. Madrid should be better integrated into the process, providing data for programs that also exist there and developing a collaboration with the St. Louis campus. There were also reflections on equity and inclusivity, and the suggestion that online programs have added questions around student support. The target is for GAAC to vote on the proposed revisions in May.
- **Prerequisite Policy**
UACC has already voted on this. Questions were raised regarding the effect changes to the policy would have on the Law School with its later grade deadlines. Would the Law School be exempt? Registrar Jay Haugen replied that the new policy would be implemented in a way not prejudicial to the Law School; he won't drop any student without consultation with the Law School registrar, and per UACC, students would have to be notified of such impending action. Mr. Haugen emphasized the need for a University-wide overhaul of prerequisites: unnecessary prerequisites in sequential courses should be eliminated and no undergraduate courses should be a prerequisite for graduate courses, whose required prerequisites should be covered by admissions prerequisites. GAAC unanimously approved the new policy.

Graduate Academic Affairs Committee– Meeting Minutes
Saint Louis University
Friday, April 11, 2025

- ***Leave of Absence Policy***

Discussion was postponed because of lack of time.

V. Announcements

VI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM.