University of Northern Iowa Graduate College Curriculum Committee Minutes, August 27, 2021

University of Northern Iowa. Graduate College Curriculum Committee.

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The meeting was called to order by Chair Gabriela Olivares at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Olivares welcomed committee members. Introductions followed.

Chair Olivares explained traditionally the chair of GCCC has been the Associate Dean of the Graduate College. The chair is a non-voting member and prepares all the agendas. However, the committee may choose to nominate anyone they would like to take care of this role.

**S. Coon motioned to nominate G. Olivares, D. Grant seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Chair Olivares explained this committee does not have a vice-chair who can assist when the main chair is absent. Since this position would be filled with a faculty member, it will be a voting member position. Chair Olivares asked for nominations or a volunteer, and recommended a member of the Graduate Council to be on-call vice-chair if needed. S. Coon volunteered to serve as vice-chair.

Chair Olivares shared that when she organized the GCCC committee schedule in the spring, there were no safety guidelines yet set for the fall semester. She decided to maintain the zoom meetings. As the new semester approached, some members reached out and expressed they would be absent but would be able to join remotely. She also shared the recording the meeting helps in the minute-taking process. These reasons tilted her decision to maintain this mode of communication. If life changes, she stated we can find a way to meet in person. She would just need to find a room to hold all the committee members.

Scope of Duties

Chair Olivares explained everyone received a google drive folder with materials. For each college package, there are two reader-leaders who will participate in a pre-meeting and vet the agenda (main and consent). These leaders will also meet with the departmental representatives to ask questions and seek clarifications. This year, we have many new leaders so Chair Olivares paired a seasoned leader with a new leader. She will leave it up to the college specialists to determine who is a main reader or second reader for each package. She would be happy to be a guide/mentor/facilitator and the Office of the Registrar is really a go-to office for this process.

Chair Olivares continued to explain there will be a consent agenda, the consent agenda has been vetted in the pre-meeting (today’s meeting does not have a consent agenda). We will vote on the consent agenda in mass. Any member can request to remove items from the consent agenda during an official meeting. At the meeting, the main leader will make a motion and the second leader will second the motion, and then we will proceed with the discussion. We will vote pending corrections made by the
Office of the Registrar. The Office of the Registrar is critical in answering questions, finding creative solutions and getting edits recorded into the university catalog.

II. Board of Regents Program Approval

A. Department of Language and Literatures

› SPANISH-MA (program termination)

Chair Olivares shared the suspension of the Spanish MA program is a process that started a long time ago. In the catalog, the official suspension started in 2018, however the process started much earlier. The Spanish MA program has no current graduate students, they have all completed their degrees around 2018. This is just a procedural vote to terminate the program. The Spanish MA program is no longer viable. C. Nielsen asked if any current students would be affected. Chair Olivares confirmed there are no current students affected.

Members had no further questions.

C. Nielsen motioned for a vote to accept the program proposal as written for the termination of the Spanish MA. Committee members voted. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Department of Communication and Media

› GENCOMMEMPH-MA (name change)

Current name is Major in Communication Studies: General Communication Emphasis MA. Proposed name is Major in Communication and Media MA.

K. Rudick explained the Department of Communication and Media is getting quite a big overhaul. Traditionally, there have been five different emphases for the MA program, and each emphasis has thesis or non-thesis options. This creates ten different “programs”. Now they are proposing there will be one MA program called Communication and Media. They are changing the General Communication Emphasis and re-naming it Communication and Media, and removing the other emphases and adding certificate options. This is a way to simplify what students see on their end and at the same time encourage more collaboration with the different areas within the Department of Communication and Media.

Chair Olivares noted that we are voting on the name change only, the rest of the package (including the new certificates) will be addressed with the CHAS package. The name change is a very small part of the curriculum package.

S. Coon asked if students can complete a certificate as a non-degree student. K. Rudick replied the Department of Communication and Media has a solid base of 25 full-time enrolled students. There is also a good number of students who are primarily K–12 teachers who need recertification of at least 15 hours at the MA level. The recertification allows them to teach concurrently at a community college or teach a high school course that counts as college credit. There are a lot of non-degree students. Rather than taking 4-5 random classes, there is now a sequence to those classes and a name put to it.

C. Nielsen stated that we are only voting on the name change right now. Official name will be Communication and Media. This also reflects the recent departmental name change from Communication Studies to Communication and Media.
Members had no further questions.

C. Nielsen motioned to vote to accept Communication and Media as the new name as written. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Department of Curriculum and Instruction

› CITECH-MA (name change)

Current name is Major in Instructional Technology MA. Proposed name is Major in Learning Technology and Instructional Design MA.

L. Zietz explained the Department of Curriculum and Instruction is doing a refresh on the Instructional Technology program. There is a master’s program and an undergraduate program. The Master’s program will be called Learning Technology and Instructional Design. What this does is broaden the program so it’s not just K-12 teachers. The department is also looking at instructional design artists who are in the corporate world. The name Learning Technology has been used by other universities. The Department of Curriculum and Instruction will also be changing the prefix INSTTECH to LRNTECH.

C. Nielsen wanted to confirm there is no impact on students or faculty. L. Zietz confirmed there is no impact.

Members had no further questions.

H. Gallivan motioned to vote to accept the Learning Technology and Instructional Design as the new name as written. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Next meeting September 10, 2021 – COB and CSBS

Chair Olivares stated the next meeting will be September 10, 2020 via Zoom at 3:00 pm. Proposals from CSBS will be discussed.

The next pre-meeting will take place on September 10, 2021 via Zoom at 4:00 pm

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,

April Schmiesing
Office of the Registrar

cc: UCC
    GCCC
    Guests
    Record Analysts