

GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING

April 11th, 2019

10:00 AM, York Room

Attendees: Connie Crawford, Provost Becker, Amanda Beecher (guest) Jackie Braun, Kathy Burke, Brian Chinni, Scott Frees (guest) Julie Good, Susan Hangen, Tim Landers (Chair), AnnMarie Moreno, Fernanda Papalia, Ed Petkus, Rich Russo, Eddie Saiff, Liz Sieke, Carolyn Ucci (Graduate Enrollment).

Chairman Landers opened the meeting at 10:00 AM and reviewed the previously distributed agenda:

- Review and approval of February 14th meeting minutes (T. Landers)
- Policy 300-ZZ Update: Undergraduate Students Taking Graduate Courses (T. Landers)
- Proposal: 4+1 MASE (J. Norflus-Good)
- Proposal: M.S. in Data Science (Scott Frees & Amanda Beecher)
- Other Business

1. Approval of the Minutes

After a review of the minutes, Dean Petkus moved that the February 14th minutes be approved as presented; F. Papalia seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Council.

2. Policy 300-ZZ Update

T. Landers reported on the approval by the Provost Committee to increase the number of graduate courses that undergraduate students may take to a maximum of three courses or up to twelve credits. The Graduate Council previously approved an increase in the number of classes eligible for double counting from two to three but only for students accepted into a 4+1 program. No changes were made to the requirement that a student must be matriculated, in good academic standing, must receive a positive endorsement from his/her Academic Advisor, and must obtain permission from the Program Director.

The Provost Council approved the expansion of double counting from two to three courses but dropped the requirement that students must first be admitted in a 4+1 program:

“The student may take a maximum of two three graduate course (i.e., a maximum of 8 12 credits) during his/her undergraduate career...If the student graduates with an undergraduate degree and later matriculates into a Ramapo College graduate program, the student may also use those graduate courses, if applicable, to satisfy graduate degree requirements.”

F. Papalia reported that almost immediately after the change was approved and listed on the College website, a student citing the new policy enrolled in a third graduate course. C. Crawford worried that without rigorous oversight, an undergraduate student could potentially take 30% of the MSAC degree as an undergraduate without being accepted into the program.

A discussion followed regarding whether prior approval from the Academic Advisor and Graduate Program Director’s was sufficient to prevent unauthorized enrollment or whether

it was necessary to restore the link to enrollment in a 4+1 program. A resolution was deferred until the May meeting.

3. Proposal: 4+1 MASE

With the Provost Council's revision to Policy 300-ZZ, J. Norflus-Goode (calling in via phone) presented the course curriculum for the proposed 4+1 MASE Program (Note: the Graduate Council gave Dr. Norflus Good preliminary approval to proceed with her program expansion at the February meeting). After a brief discussion of the curriculum, B. Chinni moved to approve the 4+1 MASE Program as presented. The motion was seconded by R. Russo and unanimously approved.

4. Proposal: M.S. in Data Science (Scott Frees & Amanda Beecher)

Scott Frees, Professor of Computer Science, and Amanda Beecher, Associate Professor of Mathematics, presented a proposal for the introduction of an M.S. in Data Science. A lengthy discussion followed, regarding enrollment potential, market assessment, employment opportunities, cross-discipline synergies, internal resources, and curriculum.

Eddie Saiff moved that the M.S. in Data Science be added to Ramapo's graduate program offerings. K. Burke seconded the motion to add a new graduate program, which was unanimously approved by the Council.

The next meeting will take place on April 9th at 10:00 AM. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Minutes submitted by Timothy Landers