2018-2019 Graduate Curriculum Committee  
Agenda  
December 4, 2018

Committee members: Sandy Slater (Chair; History), Lindsey Drager (English), Kate Keeney (Arts Management), Amanda Ruth-McSwain (Communication)

Ex-Officio: Lynne Ford (Associate Provost), Franklin Czwazka (Registrar), Jon Hakkila (Graduate School), Robyn Olejniczak (Graduate School),

Invited: Annalisa Calini (Math), Martin Jones (Math), Bob Mignone (Math)

A. Call to Order.
   1:05 called to order. Sandy Slater made announcements. The next Graduate Council meeting will not have curricular items.

B. Approval of November Minutes
   Lindsey Drager motioned to approve. Amanda Ruth-McSwain seconded. All approved.

Old Business
C. Operations Research Graduate Certificate (tabled from Nov meeting)
   https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:1071/form
   Martin Jones talked about this proposal. The change is the list of electives that can be taken for the certificate. The goal of the certificate is breadth over depth, and the changes reflect that. Robyn Olejniczak asked about exceptions to this list of electives. The list of electives will be expanded, but Math will continue to have flexibility to allow for exceptions.

New Business
D. ENGL MA Elective Changes
   https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:1181/form
   Sandy Slater talked about the proposal. Lindsey Drager was able to respond to some questions from the group. The change supports diversity of courses and customization. Kate Keeney motioned to approve. Amanda Ruth-McSwain seconded. All approved.

E. EVSS - Title Change
   https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:1116/form
   Lindsey Drager motioned to approve. Kate seconded. All approved.
   EVSS 640- Change in Course Description
   https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:1115/form
   Amanda Ruth-McSwain motioned to approve. Kate seconded. All approved.
F. Mathematics  
MATH 604 course description change  
https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:948/form  
Kate Keeney made a motion. Amanda Ruth-McSwain seconded. All approved.

G. Ph.D. in Mathematics and Data Computation (Discussion)  
https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:899/form

H. MATH 630 Creation of Course (related to Ph.D)  
https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:935/form

Sandy Slater asked for an overview of the proposal. Bob Mignone (Math) talked about the interest from local industry for this PhD. If companies can hire locally, then an organic relationship may develop between students and industry. The Lowcountry will be 1 million by 2030. We have a growing manufacturing and technology industry here. Other than the Citadel which has a limited clientele (Corps of Cadets), there is no similar program. Math has over 30 research intensive faculty members. During an external review about two years ago, the question came up about having a doctoral program. Martin Jones and Anna Calini (Math) worked on this proposal. The program will be small and low-cost. The proposal does request two assistantships dedicated to the PhD program. There are many people in the area who want to get a doctoral degree in mathematics. The program will have approximately two full-time and six part-time students. Vertically integrated research groups will span students across degree levels and include faculty. These groups will teach students to work collaboratively, which is essential in today's research environment.

Anna Calini talked about the need for a PhD as opposed to a Master’s. The Master is the minimum qualification for these companies. Data-oriented industries are in the Charleston area and need these highly trained people with a strong mathematics background.

Sandy Slater asked about potential complications with Engineering - two expensive programs. Is this proposal related to the Engineering proposal? Sandy Slater brought up the discussion of being a STEM oriented institution. Bob Mignone responded that mathematics is core to liberal arts. Is a PhD in Math threatening our identity? One of the new program’s models is Bryn Mawr--a small liberal arts college. Others that have doctoral programs are William and Mary (an aspirational school) and Dartmouth. We are not just a humanities school. Anna Calini described that this PhD program is largely theoretical. It fits wonderfully with the liberal arts.

Sandy Slater commented on the content for each of the courses. The doctoral classes will not generally overlap with the Master’s. There will be about 21% overlap, mostly with Master’s students. These students would be exempt from the first semester of the program and they would take other courses to fulfill the credit hour requirements. Jon Hakkila asked if there are enough courses for those students. Martin Jones responded that it would be very rare that students would have already taken all of the other available classes.

Robyn Olejniczak asked about the 4+1 students who are enrolled in 600-level courses. A 4+1 undergraduate, a master’s student, and a doctoral student could all be in a single 600-level class. Anna Calini commented that this is a common practice at other schools.
Students still have to apply to take graduate courses as a special permission. Martin Jones talked about students in the 4+1 program. These students may take a graduate class that does not count toward their undergraduate degree.

Sandy Slater suggested that Math develop language around the notion of exceptional undergraduate students so that there is shared understanding of the qualifications of these students before they may enter into a 600-level course. Martin Jones reviewed the demand for the policy college-wide. Anna Calini asked about the approval for this policy. Lynne Ford mentioned that Academic Affairs would review this policy.

Sandy Slater talked about Kate Keeney’s edits to the Math proposal and asked that Anna Calini review the edits before the next meeting in January. Martin Jones talked about the continuous enrollment policy.

Anna Calini talked about the relationship between the program’s Computational Project and the Dissertation—this is similar to UNC Greensboro. Kate Keeney and Lindsey Drager both had questions about these components of the program. Lindsey Drager suggested housing the description of the Computational Project under the dissertation section of the proposal. The project is not part of the degree, it is part of the dissertation.

Lindsey Drager and Jon Hakkila talked about the definition of a thesis and a dissertation. Martin Jones said that “novel and publishable” is a requirement of the dissertation.

Martin Jones discussed the preference for Graduate School policies to be developed. The PhD program would abide by these policies. Sandy Slater and Jon Hakkila discussed the Graduate School’s work on developing policy.

Amanda Ruth-McSwain asked about the teaching assistant model. Anna Calini responded that the teaching course is in addition to the first semester’s coursework.

Amanda Ruth-McSwain asked about the kinds of jobs/job titles that demand this PhD? Anna Calini talked about the roles of research scientists. Some students work at PolkaDot. Bob Mignone mentioned teaching at the post-secondary level. Cyber security and quantum computing are other related fields.

Amanda Ruth-McSwain asked if there is a relationship with computer science? Anna Calini said there will be interaction with computer science, physics, and statistics. Bob Mignone talked about a larger vision for Charleston that includes a research center and workshops. The doctoral program is part of that larger vision.

Amanda Ruth-McSwain asked if an outside faculty member could serve on the dissertation advisory committee? Anna Calini does not anticipate this need, but perhaps.

Martin Jones and Anna Calini said that they are open to non-degree and qualified students taking the PhD classes.

Sandy Slater talked about major changes (programs, certificates, etc.), coming through the approval process as a packet. The new PhD classes will come to the committee before the January meeting. In January, the Committee will review the proposal as one
package. Lynne Ford reminded the group that the new courses are already available in Curriculog.

Sandy Slater asked for other questions from the group and commented on how thoughtful and gracious the Math faculty have been through the process. The Math faculty will come back at the January 2019 meeting.

I. For the Good of the Order.

J. Adjournment.

Next meeting: Friday, January 11 from 3-5pm
Jewish Studies Conference Room