2017-18 Committee on Graduate Education

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 26, 2018

Committee members: Christine Finnan (Chair; TEDU & Anthropology), Lindsey Drager (English), Kate Keeney (Arts Management), Sandy Slater (History)

Ex-Officio: Jon Hakkila (Graduate School), Robyn Olejniczak (Graduate School), Brian McGee (Dean of the Graduate School of the University of Charleston, S.C.), Lynn Cherry (Associate Provost for Curriculum and Institutional Resources), Mary Bergstrom (Registrar), Julie Dahl (Registrar’s Office), Franklin Czwazka (Registrar’s Office), Nancy Muller (Lowcountry Graduate Center), Divya Bhati (Office for Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Planning),

Invited: Brian Lanahan (TEDU), Bob Perkins (TEDU), Judy Millesen (PUBA)

A. Call to order. 9:00

B. Review and approval of the minutes from the January 8, 2018 meeting.
Sandy made a motion to approve the minutes. Kate seconded. All approved.

C. New Business
   a. Early Childhood Renumbering and Cross-listing
   b. Elementary Renumbering and Cross-listing

These two proposals are for the MAT in early childhood education. Bob Perkins spoke about the difference between the MAT and MED degrees. The MED is a master in education. The student already has an undergraduate degree in education. The MAT is for a student who has an undergraduate degree in something unrelated to education. Coursework for an MAT is similar to an undergraduate program preparing students to be teachers.

There is a decline in people wanting to be teachers and that is affecting MAT enrollment. The faculty are trying to come up with a way to make the MAT survive and be sure that the programs are cost effective. A solution was to have master’s students meet in the same classroom as undergraduate students. We cross-listed courses, but this became a problem. If an undergraduate student had taken “intro to exceptional children,” for example, then he/she could not count this again at the graduate level. So we changed the co-meetings to “meets with” instead of “cross listed.” Since then, we have put into place elective classes (currently there are no electives in the MAT program). These other courses will provide graduate course offerings if a student has taken a requirement as an undergraduate. The electives are not intended for everyone, but for those in this particular situation. The faculty met last year with the Registrar to discuss the options of “meets with” and “cross listing.” We determined the need for cross-listed courses instead. We now have different undergraduate and graduate syllabi with different
assignments, grading scale, and learning objectives. If we have enough students, we will put together an MAT cohort. Otherwise, we want the option to cross-list graduate and undergraduate courses. Mary Bergstrom commented on the unique nature of this situation.

Nancy Muller asked, what can the Lowcountry Graduate Center do to attract people to the MAT programs? Bob Perkins mentioned the teachers strike in West Virginia. There is a shortage of teachers nationwide because of the lack of respect, lack of salaries, testing and accountability, and multiple ways to get certified.

Brian McGee noted the constant angst about MAT programs. For historical reasons and because of the national trend, we elected to have the MAT program. We need to continue to find ways to articulate the advanced nature of the MAT, as compared to an undergraduate degree in education. The MAT is a distinct program. We need to enforce the notion that the MAT is more advanced than an undergraduate program in education.

Christine Finnan asked a procedural question. Does the committee need to vote on each course in the proposal, or may we consider them all together? Brian McGee suggested that the committee consider all the MAT proposals as a single motion for approval.

Robyn Olejniczak asked if the PRAXIS will replace the GRE requirement. Bob Perkins mentioned that the proposal under consideration includes crosslisting, electives (“bucket list”), and two renumbering changes. The PRAXIS is not included in the proposal under consideration.

Sandy Slater mentioned that she would be more comfortable if there was a requirement for additional readings in the graduate syllabi, as opposed to optional additional readings. Bob Perkins noted that extra readings was left as an option because objectives might be met through other means without additional readings. Brian McGee noted the ongoing burden of proving additional work for graduate students. Deans, chairs, and program directors are held accountable for the rigor of graduate programs.

Christine Finnan asked for a motion to approve the three issues together: crosslisting, electives (“bucket list”), and two re-numbering changes. All approved.

c. Other TEDU proposals

This proposal is about adding electives. Brian McGee noted that the catalogues had to match between joint programs and that the ⅓ rule had to be met. Mary Bergstrom noted that this elective list will be handled by exception; it will not show up in DegreeAudit. Franklin Czwazka asked a question about admissions requirements on the proposal. Bob Perkins and Christine Finnan noted that the admissions criteria are not changing in this proposal. Brian McGee noted that the vote on this proposal is not related to admissions changes. Robyn Olejniczak asked about a letter of support from the Citadel. Brian McGee noted that we can endorse the proposal and obtain the letter later. Robyn Olejniczak asked about the MAT in Performing Arts. Bob Perkins and Christine Finnan said that these course numbers will not change. Brian McGee asked that the MAT in Performing Arts be clarified for the Graduate Council meeting.

Jon Hakkila asked if the electives are being taught at both institutions? Brian McGee noted that the ⅓ rule needed to be met so that we are meeting the policies of the joint degree program.
Christine Finnan asked for a motion to approve this proposal. Lindsey Drager motioned. Sandy Slater seconded. All approved.

d. Early Childhood/Elementary program change

Brian Lanahan discussed the low numbers in the program and in the teaching profession. Currently the MAT is a two year program. The faculty decided to revise the MAT program to a one-year, 13-month footprint. This is the national norm. We have courses that satisfy both early childhood and elementary education. The faculty completed a survey to gauge interest in the revised program. There is interest in the program moving to a one-year footprint. The program includes more rigor, including a research methods course. Christine Finnan noted that by adding research, the MAT gives the value of a master’s program. The students who complete this program will be eligible for the pay bump that others earn with graduate degrees. Brian McGee noted that as a trend, if a program is more professionally aligned, then it is a one-year schedule. Other trends are 30-33 credit hour programs. The “timely completion” and “hybrid” model is a national trend. Bob Perkins mentioned that the program is now 42 credit hours (from 48 hours). National accrediting bodies and state laws stipulate some of the program requirements.

Robyn Olejniczak asked about admissions requirements in the cover letter. The cover letter includes changes in the current admissions requirements. Mary Bergstrom asked that admission requirement changes be reflected in the proposal and the meeting minutes. Admission changes will need to be submitted separately in Curriculog through the admissions form.

Brian McGee discussed the hard lines described in the revised admissions requirements. Will the program really be able to enforce these admissions requirements with no exceptions? Admissions criteria should be a predictor of success for the program. So what is it about a hard GPA that is predictive of success in graduate study? Programs need to be transparent that they are willing to entertain exceptions. Brian McGee suggested language like, “Exceptions will be considered by the program’s admissions committee.” As such, there will be an amendment to this proposal, and all changes will need to be submitted separately through the admissions change proposal.

Robyn Olejniczak asked if the PRAXIS is something anyone can take. Christine Finnan said yes. The admissions requirements need to clarify the choice of PRAXIS and GRE.

Robyn Olejniczak asked about clinical practice. Students could receive the MAT but not be recommended for state certification because they are not required to complete clinical practice. This has happened with one student who had dispositional issues. Brian McGee asked about comparison programs--what are they doing?. Brian Lanahan explained that some programs have different pathways where a student could receive a degree without state certification. Divya Bhati asked if this allowance would permit other students to take this pathway. Brian Lanahan noted that this would be very unusual. A student would not pursue this degree if he/she did not want to complete clinical practice.

Robyn Olejniczak noted that the credit hours need to be changed from 42+6 to 42 in the proposal.

There was discussion about the program moving forward for 2018-19 without CHE approval. Brian McGee suggested that we note that it was approved by the College in a management letter. The admissions change has a separate, expedited process.
Christine Finnan asked for a motion to approve the proposal without the admissions changes. Kate Keeney moved to approve. Sandy Slater seconded. All approved.

e. Public Administration

Judy Milleson reviewed the proposal. Public Administration is bringing forth a renumbering proposal that came about after the 4+1 degree program approval process. There are two speed bumps in the process—the Environmental Studies program and Arts Management program. Environmental Studies (EVSS) and PUBA are cross listed and will remain that way at this time. This will likely change in the future (one year) as Environmental Studies considers adopting the new numbering.

Jon Hakila noted assessing cross-listing courses. Brian McGee noted that these course have already been cross-listed, and PUBA is trying to come into institutional policy with a new numbering scheme. We presume that cross-listed courses are identical at the graduate to graduate or undergraduate to undergraduate course levels.

The second speed bump has to do with Arts Management. Right now Arts Management is considered a change in prefix from PUBA to ARCM. There have been conversations about this and questions about this change remain at this time. Arts Management also considering content development for the current graduate certificate. Brian McGee noted that we should not let messiness get in the way of PUBA adopting appropriate course numbering policy. The committee should proceed with PUBA course numbering changes, and if another change comes related to the Arts Management prefix, then the committee will discuss those at that time.

Christine Finnan called for a motion to approve the proposal. Sandy Slater moved to approve. Kate Keeney seconded. All approved.

D. Old business

Christine Finnan discussed the approval process in Curriculog. At the next meeting (March 5), the committee may see proposals from Communications, History, Environmental Studies, Historic Preservation, English, and maybe Arts Management.

E. For the good of the order

F. Adjournment. Sandy Slater motioned to adjourn. Lindsay Drager seconded. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 10:40. Next meeting March 5, 2018 – 9:00 – 10:30 AM -- Jewish Studies Center #319