

**Graduate Academic Affairs Committee
Saint Louis University
Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 14, 2023**

Voting Members Present: Patricia Bagsby, Dana Baum, Jen Jen Chang, Elizabeth Gockel-Blessing, Zhenguo Lin, Joe Lyons, Dana Malkus, Katie Mascari, J. Mark Pousson, Nicola Pozzi, William Rehg, Kristi Richter, and Ness Sandoval

Non-voting Members & Regular Guests Present: Marissa Cope, Felicia C. Echols, Lisa Fischer, Audra Frick, Jay Haugen, Nicole Mispagel, Jennifer Popiel, and April Trees

Absent: LaToya Cash, Angela Encinar, Christine Harper, Helen Lach, Montaque Reynolds, and Andrew Solsrud

The Graduate Academic Affairs Committee (GAAC) meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Minutes

The March 10, 2023, minutes were approved after a small correction of a typo (seeks should be weeks). The March 24, 2023, minutes were approved with no corrections.

Committee Reports/Program Proposal

No new proposals for April meeting.

Old/Ongoing Business

- Waitlist Policy

Dana Malkus from the School of Law shared with the committee some best practices with the waitlist and its flexibility for students and areas that they do not want to see changed. Jay Haugen addressed questions and concerns from the committee on how to institute the waitlist policy in their perspective departments. Several areas of further discussion and potential change as well as new questions emerged in the conversation:

- Suggestion that students should be able to be on the wait list through the add/drop period.
- Suggestion that students be able to add themselves to the wait list through the add period.
- Allowing students to be on multiple waitlists for the same class.
- Question about whether or not policy should set a cap for the number of students who can be on a waitlist.
- Should graduate classes have waitlists or should grad and undergrad be treated differently?
- Can students attend class while on the waitlist (and how does classroom capacity affect this)?
- Do we have Madrid feedback on how this relates to their current practice?

New Business

- Modifications to Micro-credential Policy Proposed by UAAC

The Micro-credential Policy was passed both GAAC, UAAC, and CADD earlier this semester. However, UAAC requested an update to Section 4.0 Definitions under the Academic Micro-credential section in the policy regarding current students' ability to count courses they have already taken toward newly developed micro-credentials. After some discussion, the committee modified the change suggested by UAAC. The following sentence was added to the policy:

Due to the small number of credits required, all coursework must be completed at Saint Louis University and all coursework must be completed after the creation of the micro-credential. ***However, students that are enrolled as degree-seeking students at the time the micro-credential is created may count completed coursework toward the new micro-credential.***

A motion was made to accept the amended Micro-credential Policy. Seconded. Motion passed.

- Graduate Assistantship Support Initiative Update

The provost announced that graduate assistantships could receive up to \$3,500 to increase stipends with a maximum monthly amount of \$2,500. In addition, health insurance benefits will be extended to provide continuous coverage for qualifying students, regardless of contract length.

This initial change will be followed by work in the next year to do an inventory of Graduate Assistantships to look at the work being done by GAs and development of policies related to GAs.

Announcements/Issues

- Next GAAC meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 12, 2023.

The GAAC adjourned the meeting.

Felicia C. Echols, Ed.D.
Coordinator, Academic Affairs

Dr. April Trees
Interim Associate Provost
Chair, Graduate Education