

**MINUTES OF  
GRADUATE COLLEGE COMMITTEE ON CURRICULA**

**August 26, 2022**

Present: M. Bunker, M. Conrad, S. Coon, C. Christopher, S. Goss, D. Grant, W. Hoofnagle, R. McNeal, S. Moore, C. Nielsen, G. Olivares, M. Perry, A. Schmiesing

Absent: Rachelle Kidwell

The meeting was called to order by Chair Wendy Hoofnagle at 2:01 p.m. via Zoom

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

G. Olivares welcomed Wendy Hoofnagle as the GCCC Chair. Today's meeting is via zoom; however, the rest of the meetings will be in-person in Lang 115.

G. Olivares explained this committee does 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 S. Coon if she would like to continue to serve as vice-chair. S. Coon volunteered to continue to serve as vice-chair. Motion passed unanimously.

G. Olivares shared there may be upcoming changes to the GCCC process in order to speed up the curriculum process. Some decisions such as changing a prefix may be given ownership to the departments to make their own corrections. G. Olivares turned the meeting over to Chair Hoofnagle.

Chair Hoofnagle thanked S. Coon for serving as vice chair.

**II. Board of Regents Program Approval**

S. Coon motioned, D. Grant seconded, to approve the proposal of the Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies major.

**A. Department of Interdisciplinary**

- MAIS – Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies (new)

Chair Hoofnagle explained this is a new initiative in response to Ad Hoc committees, recommendations, and academic positioning recommendations to increase the number of Interdisciplinary programs on campus. This is a stand-alone MA that is meant to draw from two or three unique areas of specialization to create a degree that is tailored to the student's specific career and personal goals. There will be a thesis and non-thesis track, we expect most students who participate will choose the non-thesis option. Different faculty have already agreed to be a part of this program. This is a 30-hour degree. The application process will include a statement of purpose with their goals listed. The recommendation letters required has been lowered from three to two. The major will be administered in the graduate college with assistance of faculty supervisors for the student's final project. Students will have two faculty members for representation from their concentrated fields. The degree is anticipated to be completed in four semesters. Would like to develop online tracks if possible to increase accessibility of the degree. Current faculty and existing courses are being used for the coursework.

C. Nielsen asked if other schools are offering this type of major. Chair Hoofnagle replied this type of degree is currently offered at many universities including Iowa and Iowa State. Iowa's program is not a stand-alone program. Iowa State's is a stand-alone program. The major is tailored to each student's

individual needs so there needs to be a method to the madness. The statement of purpose would have to clearly state the anticipated track they will pursue and will be monitored through the Graduate College.

M. Perry asked about the timeline. M. Perry said typically the Registrar's Office needs the catalog information in November. G. Olivares would like to have a task force ready by the end of October with the proposal, however, G. Olivares and Chair Hoofnagle can work on the language for the catalog so the information is ready.

S. Coon asked if students can complete the two to three concentrations in different colleges. S. Coon doesn't want the major so subscribed that students have to take concentrations in two different colleges. Wording may want to be added in the description saying students could stay in one college and choose different concentrations.

S. Coon asked why a task force is needed. G. Olivares explained it is so faculty can give input to see if we can create what we don't currently have.

M. Perry asked if they expect any changes to the base outline of the program after the task force. G. Olivares expects to start with what we have as a base but she cannot confirm.

S. Moore asked if students take classes from areas that are not participating in the new degree. G. Olivares answered no. We have to respect the department's decisions to not participate. Chair Hoofnagle will certainly go back around and answer any questions from departments that are not participating.

**D. Grant motioned, S. Coon seconded, to vote to accept the program proposal for the new Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies MA. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **III. Next meeting September 2, 2022 – CSBS**

Chair Hoofnagle stated the next meeting will be **September 2, 2022, 2:00 pm**, LANG 115. Proposals from CSBS will be discussed.

The next pre-meeting will take place on September 2, 2022 3:10 pm, LANG 115

Meeting adjourned at 2:44 pm

Respectfully submitted,

April Schmiesing  
Office of the Registrar

cc: UCC  
GCCC  
Guests  
Record Analysts