



Graduate Board
Thursday, September 19, 2024
57 Stodder Hall

12:30-2:00 pm

AGENDA

1. Welcome/introductions
2. Approval of April 25, 2024 minutes
3. September 10, 2024 Graduate Curriculum Committee report
4. Announcements/updates
 - Enrollment update
 - Changes in Graduate School staff
 - Graduate Mentoring Compact
 - English proficiency expectations
 - Graduate Student Workers' Union update
5. Changes to admission deferment procedures for international graduate students
6. U.S. Embassy wait times for visa appointments/assistantship award letters
7. Strategic Re-Envisioning discussions
8. Discussion of priorities for the academic year/invited guests
9. Items arising



Graduate Board
Thursday, April 25, 2024
57 Stodder Hall

12:30-2:00 pm
AGENDA

Meeting called to order: 12:35 PM

Attendance: P. Aggrawal, J. Artesani, K. Ashley, S. Butler, G. Cox, S. Delcourt, D. Dryer, M. Gardner, J. Gill, A. Goupee, A. Gray, K. Huguenard, A. Knowles, S. Nittel, T. Nunez, J. Riccardi, L. Rickard, F. Rondeau, D. Sandweiss, T. Schwartz, P. Stechlinski, S. Wright, T. Yoo

Zoom Attendance: E. Allan, T. Bowden, M. Brichacek, M. Camire, J. Dimmel, N. Emanetoglu, K. Evans, N. O'Reilly, P. Libby, R. MacAulay, C. Marzilli, E. Pandiscio, B. Peterson, P. Rahimzadeh-Bajgiram, J. Romero Gomez, G. Schwieterman, R. Wheeler,

Guests: Henri Akono, Business School, Debbi Hogate, Literacy program, CoEHD

1. Review/approval of the March 28, 2024 Graduate Board minutes
 - Proposed amendments from Dan Sandweiss
 - i. Outstanding Graduate Student nominations – date (3/39/24) needs to be corrected.
 - ii. Graduate Faculty Appointments – language in minutes is unclear. Initial Graduate Faculty appointment is made at the time of hire and extends through the review for promotion and tenure.
 - iii. Gail Schwieterman – are faculty supposed to fill out an application to become graduate faculty?
 - a. Scott replied: New faculty must complete an ROQ to initially register with the Graduate School to become Graduate Faculty.
 - b. Dan Sandweiss further clarified why the change in process was made for new faculty – tenure review timeline is one year longer than the standard 5 year Graduate Faculty appointment.
 - Update on attendance for March 28 meeting – Jacquelyn Gill via Zoom
 - Motion to approve minutes – Jim Artesani
 - 2nd – Jacquelyn Gill
 - Unanimous – with one abstention – Greg Cox

2. Review/approval of the April 2, 2024 Graduate Curriculum Committee report

- **New Courses:**

- BIO 535 Insect Taxonomy
- BIO 553 Forest Entomology
- INT 504 Complex Problem-Solving for Future Leaders
- INT 505 Complex Problem-Solving for Future Leaders Seminar
- INT 540 Advances in Materials I
- INT 541 Advances in Materials II
- MEE 522 Advances in Materials I
- MEE 524 Advances in Materials II
- NUR 563 Evidence-Based Practice for Advanced Nursing Practice
- NUR 566 Innovations in Teaching and Learning
- SED 510 Teaching Early Childhood Special Education
- WLE 511 Animal Demographic Estimation

- **Modifications:**

- ENG 698 Independent Study
- DSE 503 Systems Foundations of Data Science and Engineering
- DSE 510 Data Science and Engineering Practicum
- NUR 644 Healthcare Leadership and Management
- SIE 505 Formal Foundations For Information Science
- SIE 516 Interactive Technologies for Solving Real-World Problems
- SIE 550 Design of Information Systems
- SIE 555 Spatial Database Systems
- SIE 558 Real-Time Sensor Data Streams
- SIE 559 Geosensor Networks
- SIE 580 Ontology Engineering Theory and Practice
- SWK 595 Field Practicum in Social Work
- SWK 695 Advanced Field Practicum in Social Work

- Motion to accept – Dan Sandweiss
- 2nd – Greg Cox
- Unanimous approval

3. Announcements/updates

- Commencement update – Kathleen Harding-Heber
 - i. There are 164 participating faculty members for Friday’s Grad Commencement.
 - ii. There are 501 Graduate Students who have indicated participation – including 52 PhD candidates.
 - iii. Volunteers – approximately 50 for Friday – volunteer assignments will be sent from Dianne Avery.
 - a. Volunteer Luncheon, Training & walk-through Wednesday, May 1st at 11:30 AM – followed by an Alford walk through at 1:00 PM.
 - b. Presidents walk through – 1:00 PM Thursday.
 - c. Marshalls walk through – 2:00 PM Thursday.

- d. 3:00 PM Wednesday - Marshall training with Sandy Caron for those who cannot make the Thursday walk through.
 - e. Email to faculty – sent today – confirming 3:00 PM arrival time.
 - f. Email to Deans, Executive Committee and Stage Party will go out early next week & contain the final script, the Alford map, etc...
 - g. Biggest format difference – In order to align with the undergraduate ceremonies, Deans will be on stage this year. For the Graduate Ceremony, this means that the Executive Committee members will lead graduates from the field house to the Alford, and then to the stage when called upon.
 - h. Anne Knowles asked if there is any preparation for a possible protest regarding Gaza. Kathleen responded that security is prepared.
 - i. Graduate Ceremony starts at 4 PM.
 - j. Concern has been expressed about the length of the Graduate Ceremony so the photo normally taken on stage after the hooding will be eliminated.
 - k. Terry Yoo asked - Can we group all of the students in each discipline together?
 - l. Scott mentioned that we may try that next year if needed!
- Graduate student workers union collective bargaining update
 - i. Progress being made slowly & discussions have been generally amicable.
 - ii. Some of the recent discussion items include (a) employment files – where are they kept and the needed separation between an academic file and an employment file; (b) workload – thesis & dissertation academic work overlaps with graduate work for many graduate research assistants; (c) subcontracting – request that the university not subcontract in ways that eliminate graduate student work. (AI was also brought up as a consideration.)
 - a. Jacquelyn Gill asked if we had any sense of stipends and insurance rates – as programs are making 24-25 offers currently.
 - b. Scott mentioned that there would be a possibility of retroactive pay once the collective bargaining agreement had been reached, but for now we remain in the *status quo*.
- R1 ranking and faculty feedback
 - i. Amanda Klemmer, Faculty Senate President, has started a discussion about the benefits and concerns from faculty about the University's R1 ranking. Scott has met with Amanda to discuss some of those concerns and a possible joint conversation between the Graduate Board and Senate around this issue.
 - ii. One possibility for enhanced communication is having a Faculty Senate representative to the Graduate Board. At one point, there was a GB representative from the Senate's research and scholarship committee.
- Scott congratulated this year's 3 minute thesis (3MT) winner, Jordan Miner, PhD student in biomedical engineering. Jordan's 3MT presentation is available [here](#).

- Stodder faculty member in residence opening
 - i. Current faculty member in residence (FMIR) Ayesha Milawal Bundy, is leaving to pursue a PhD in mathematics at Michigan State University.
 - ii. The FMIR position is a great opportunity for new faculty to become immersed in campus life, meet a number of graduate students, and help support the in residence graduate student population. The FMIR also receives free room and board (2BR apt, kitchen, private bath apartment)
 - iii. Scott recognized Dylan Dryer as the first faculty member in residence in Stodder, and Dylan's effort to establish a dissertation writing studio. Emily Haigh and Fayeza Ahmed (both previous FMIRs) also organized peer writing groups
 - iv. Stodder 3rd floor will be Honors College students once OIP moves out.
 - a. Patty Libby stated that OIP may be moving to Chadbourne & DLL moving to Estabrook.
 - b. Rebecca MacAulay may know of new faculty interested in the FMIR position.

- Katie Ashley, Graduate Student BOT rep – certificates for outstanding grad students
 - i. Katie announced that the GSG recently held their spring recognition event, and she has awards certificates for outstanding graduate students who did not attend the event that she will leave at the front desk in the Graduate School.
 - ii. Scott thanked Katie for her service and mentioned that she just recently defended her PhD and is leaving to go to Spain on a post-doc.
 - iii. Griffin Goins will be the new Graduate Student BOT representative.
 - iv. Laura Curioli will be the new GSG President.

- Scott recognized the following Graduate Board members who recently received promotions:
 - i. Jacquelyn Gill – Full Professor
 - ii. Sandra De Urioste Stone – Full Professor
 - iii. Jack Buttane – Associate Professor with Tenure

- 4. Introduction of new Graduate Board members for AY 24-25
 - Retiring – Jim Artesani (Grad Board & Executive Committee)
 - i. Ezekiel Kimball will be taking over when Jim retires
 - Retiring – Sandy Butler
 - i. Jennifer Crittenden will be taking over as GB rep and graduate program coordinator.
 - ii. CIE – new GB rep in the fall will be Lauren Ross.
 - iii. HTY – new GB will be Mark McLaughlin.
 - iv. Jim Settle will transition to proxy & Nick Micinski will take over next year as SPIA's GB rep.
 - v. Norm O'Reilly will be leaving the university and going to UNE as the inaugural dean of the business school.
 - Scott recognized Jim for his years of service on the Graduate Executive Committee and the Graduate Board and thanked all departing Graduate Board members for their participation on the Board.

5. Election of AY 24-25 Graduate Executive Committee
 - With the exception of Jim Artesani (retiring) – other current members will run for another term.
 - College of Education and Human Development – Ezekiel Kimball has been nominated to join the Executive Committee.
 - i. Motion to approve the slate of nominees – Dan Sandweiss
 - ii. 2nd – Greg Cox
 - iii. Unanimous approval

6. New certificate proposals
 - Graduate certificate in accounting – Henri Akono & Meghan Gardner
 - i. Greg Cox asked who this is designed for?
 - a. Henri replied – mid-career professionals not necessarily interested in MBA
 - a. This 15 credit certificate would be helpful for pathways to accounting certification for Certified Management Accounting or Certified Fraud Examination.
 - b. Interested students could apply credits for certificate towards the MBA.

Motion to approve – Anne Knowles
2nd – Greg Cox
Unanimous approval

 - Graduate certificate in materials science and engineering – Sharmila Mukhopadhyay (Director of FIRST laboratory) was unable to attend, so Scott summarized:
 - i. This certificate is essentially the same as the approved IPhD concentration in Material Science and Engineering (MSE). MSE has consistently been a popular focus for IPhD students due to the faculty research and interdisciplinary centers that support this research area.
 - ii. Includes a variety of related disciplines both within and outside engineering.
 - iii. Dan Sandweiss noted that only one “C” grade may be accepted for credit towards the certificate.

Motion to approve – Dan Sandweiss
2nd - Eric Pandiscio
Unanimous approval with the friendly amendment

 - Graduate certificate in classroom-based comprehensive literacy practices – Debra Hogate & Jim Artesani
 - i. Audience for this certificate is Maine teachers working in schools supported by Maine Partnerships in Comprehensive Literacy (MPCL) teachers association. Typically, teachers need a little nudge to move towards a master’s degree. This certificate will leverage course work they already need to get them started. It is a 15 credit bundle of already existing graduate courses.
 - ii. This certificate is a pathway towards the Master of Arts in Teaching degree (Literacy concentration) and supports electives in multiple other program areas. Also relevant for the Education Specialist degree.

- iii. There are 6 electives and other required coursework that make up the 15 credits.
 - iv. Dylan Dryer asked about the “comprehensive” designation. D. Hogate replied that comprehensive refers to all aspects of literacy (reading, writing) and is the term used by the Maine Department of Education related to endorsements and teacher certification.
 - v. Anne Knowles asked about adjuncts teaching the courses and how we can plan instruction from year to year. Debra responded that adjuncts are largely former graduates of the program and are vetted through the program, the college and the Graduate School.
- Graduate certificate in comprehensive literacy coaching – Debra Hogate & Jim Artesani
 - i. There are already 8 students signed up for related courses. This certificate bundles courses in coach training, reflective practice, introduction to ed research, qualitative and quantitative leadership focus. Focuses on professional development and leadership development.
 - ii. Bachelors degree required for admission. Many literacy coaches that enter the training already have a master’s degree and are working towards the EdS or EdD.
 - iii. Dan Sandweiss noted that there was inconsistency in course numbers – it should be **585**.

Motion to approve – Tom Schwartz

2nd – Sandy Butler

Unanimous Approval

Graduate School will forward proposal to the Provost once correction is received from D. Hogate.

7. Items arising

- Anne Knowles – suggest that we have an award for catching errors for Dan Sandweiss!

Hope to see many of you at Graduate Commencement next week and wishing everyone a great summer!

Meeting adjourned 1:53PM

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT

The Curriculum Committee met on September 10, 2024 and is recommending the following courses to the Graduate Board for approval at its September 19th meeting.

New Courses:

BIO 539 Integrated Pest Management

CHY 525 Physical Chemistry of Polymers

COS 582 Introduction to Data Science

ERL 555 Intervention Design for Struggling Readers

NUR 567 Innovations in Teaching and Learning Practicum

SVT 699 Thesis/Research

Modifications:

SED 536 Educational Strategies for Students with Severe Disabilities

SED 544 Math Methods in Special Education

SED 545 Intervention for Reading Difficulties

SED 546 Writing Interventions for Students with Disabilities

Previously approved

BMS 650 Grant Writing in Biomedical Science and Engineering

SRE Themes

- 1. Optimize space allocation, with awareness of our carbon footprint, to reduce operational costs and enhance student experience, learning outcomes, and research productivity while meeting organizational needs.**
- 2. Enhance academic programs through consolidation, elimination, or restructuring recommendations to enhance educational outcomes, career readiness, and increase the university's research impact.**
- 3. Develop meta-majors and other inter- and post-disciplinary undergraduate degree programs to provide students with flexible pathways, increase enrollment, generate intellectual excitement, capitalize on our array of academic strengths, and better prepare graduates for the demands of the workforce.**
- 4. Broaden our audience by optimizing UMaine Online structure and offerings to enhance market position, drive enrollment growth, and improve overall program effectiveness and reach.**
- 5. Enhance research centers through consolidation, elimination, or restructuring recommendations to foster interdisciplinary collaboration, resource efficiency, and impactful research outcomes.**
- 6. Evaluate performing and visual arts facilities usage and programming models to increase revenue generation and community engagement while addressing operational efficiencies, positioning the institution as a versatile cultural hub.**
- 7. Assess the Graduate Entrepreneurial Revenue Sharing (GERS) pilot and opportunity for ongoing entrepreneurial revenue-sharing program to promote innovation, generate additional revenue streams, and foster an entrepreneurial culture within the institution.**
- 8. Optimize external economic development engagement and outreach activities, through an assessment of programming and structures.**
- 9. Leverage generative AI to enhance program development, improve operational effectiveness, offer new pathways for learning, and create new research opportunities, positioning the university at the forefront of technological innovation.**
- 10. Integrate teaching and research more effectively ("Learner-Focused R1") to positively impact student experience and success.**
- 11. Optimize student support services, improve student guidance and outcomes, and enhance career readiness and satisfaction.**
- 12. Implement a Campus Beautification plan with a focus on sustainability and environmental impact to enhance the campus environment, improve student and faculty satisfaction, and support the university's commitment to sustainability.**
- 13. As the only Division I college athletic program in the state, we will optimize our investment, facilities, and strategic approach in ways that positively impact student success, equity, access, and opportunity as well as the institution's brand.**