

# Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

CHAired BY: David Kieda

TIME: 3:00 pm

DATE: January 25, 2016

PLACE: Park Building 300

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Dave Kieda, Charles Hansen, Linda St Clair, Julie Wambaugh, Cedric Feschotte, Isabel Dulfano, Richard Paine, Ginny Pepper, Lien Shen, Valeria Molinero, Mary Jane Taylor, Bryan Trump, Laura Kessler, Audrey Thompson, Ryan Smith, Yuanyuan Xie

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Donna White

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Ed Barbanell, Mingnan Chen

## FINAL AGENDA

### 1. Welcome

David Kieda of the Graduate School welcomed the Graduate Council.

### 2. Proposal: New MS & Graduate Certificate program in Business Analytics

Bradden Blair and Stephen Carson of the School of Business presented a proposal for a MS and Graduate Certificate program in Business Analytics. The questions raised by the Council were each addressed by Bradden Blair or Stephen Carson.

**Vote:** Request the proposers to develop the proposal to more clearly differentiate between the proposed degree program and degrees and courses already being offered by Computer Science, and provide in the proposal a detailed letter of support from the Computer Science department. The Graduate Council will review the proposal again after the requested changes are made; approved unanimously

**Abstained:**

**Comments:** Discussion for this analytic degree started years ago but has been steadily building interest over the last few years as both students and industry leaders are requesting an analytics focused-degree. 85% of surveyed Business School undergraduates said they would be interested in pursuing an analytics program. Analytics programs are popular in peer institutions, and offerings in analytics are new accreditation requirements from entities such as AACSB. A major goal of the analytics MS degree would be to prepare students to sit for an analytics certification exam recently developed by INFORMS, a professional association.

The council recognized the value of offering an analytics program of study at the University, and expressed general support for this proposal. The council had concerns that in its present form, 8 course names in the new MS degree/certificate could be confusing to potential employers by way of suggesting competency in specific computer science skills, which are not actually part of the syllabi. Significant concerns were also raised that the program could overlap with the Computer Science department, and the lack of specific endorsement from that department was cited as an indication that the proposal had not yet been fully vetted. The council proposed the name of the courses be modified to reduce potential confusion between the

business program and other, more technical programs offered by Computer Science. This update was identified as being part of a larger process of securing support from the Computer Science department to define both the boundaries and the possibilities of collaboration between the two degree programs.

3. **Information Item: Global Medicine Certificate**

David Kieda of the Graduate School informed the Council that the changes to the Global Medicine Certificate program, which were required by a previous Council vote, had been met. The program is now set to move forward. The Council had no objections to the Certificate program proceeding.
4. **Information Item: 3-Year Reviews**

David Kieda of the Graduate School presented the information supplied in the 3-year reviews of the following programs: Master of Science in Geographic Information Science; PhD in Occupational and Environmental Health; and Doctor of Dental Surgery. The programs were found to be following their initially proposed trajectories, performing at or better than expectations.
5. **Information Item: Graduate Admissions**

Donna White of the Graduate School reported on the progress made by the Graduate Admissions Committee. Current concerns of the committee are connected to the admissions standards of the English language requirement, especially as it relates to the University of Utah's Korea campus and the fact that low English standards could drive up enrollment in the Korea campus but cause problems with student levels in the Utah campus. The committee is also looking to increase the number of international institutions given official "English speaking" status by the University.
6. **Information Item: CIB Website**

Donna White of the Graduate School reported that the website for the formation and management of Centers, Institutes, and Bureaus is now live at centers.utah.edu. A question was raised as to what constitutes "heavy use" of the University's resources by a CIB unit. Plans were made to follow up on this question.
7. **Information Item: Catalog Revisions**

David Kieda of the Graduate School discussed continuing need for accurate, longstanding records displaying program requirements and departmental policies in the form of a yearly graduate catalog. Some progress has been made with departments providing student dismissal and parental leave policies. The goal is to develop a program that will each year allow easier generation of department graduate student handbooks, synchronized to the official degree program requirements.
8. **New Business**

David Kieda of the Graduate School presented miscellaneous information items.

  - a. Foreign language requirements for Master's students in Music are being reviewed.
  - b. Medical insurance rates for students will decrease in the next academic year while benefits will increase. The expected decrease in insurance cost is approximately 2.5%.

Time of Adjournment 5:00pm.

The next Council meeting will be February 29, 2016 at 3:00pm in the Winder Board Room, Park 300.