

**MINUTES**  
**FROM THE GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**December 12, 2017**

**Attendees:** Amy Besnoy (Library), David Alejandro Cervantes (Graduate Student Council), Michael Gonzalez (History), Ronald Kaufmann (Dean's Office), Jennifer Prairie (substituting for Drew Talley), Leslie Spring (Marketing and Communications Director), Phillip Tran (Secretary), and Randy Willoughby (MAIR)

**Absent:** Brian Byrnes (Theater), Daniel Lopez-Perez (DAA+AH), Leonora Simonovis-Brown (Department of Languages, Cultures, and Literatures), and Drew Talley (EOS)

**Guests:** Sally Yard

R. Kaufmann brought the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**I. Approval of October and November Minutes**

- A. Besnoy moved to approve the prior minutes.
- M. Gonzalez seconded the motion.
- No objections; minutes from October and November approved.

**II. Update on Curatorial Studies MA program by Sally Yard**

- S. Yard discussed the importance of whether a MA program in Curatorial Studies would be a good fit for USD. She also focused on program outcomes, including the creation of internship programs with museums such as the British Museum and the Getty Museum. "The program must make sense" for it to move forward, she emphasized.
- R. Kaufmann offered to meet with S. Yard in the near future to discuss issues of financing the program, to which S. Yard agreed.
- A member commented on USD having strengths in international studies and the presence of the Madrid Center near the Prado Museum in Spain that could provide further opportunities for the MA program.
- A member expressed interest in the program and the possibility of SOLES students being able to take classes in the MA program to fulfill their elective requirements.

**III. Collaboration between GSC and Graduate Student Council**

- D. Cervantes opened the discussion by asking how the Graduate Student Council can help the GSC.
- Five schools have voting power within the Graduate Student Council—business school, law school, nursing school, peace/justice school, and SOLES. CAS does not have a graduate student organization within the College.

- Several members suggested that graduate representatives from the EOSC and MAIR programs could meet with the Graduate Student Council; this suggestion was supported by the Council representative.
- It was suggested that some students from the Graduate Student Council could be invited to the CAS fall reception to allow/encourage grad students from the five schools and CAS to intermingle.

#### **IV. Revision of EOSC 594: Special Topics Course**

- R. Kaufmann reminded the GSC about the curricular revision procedure, i.e., that after the GSC votes, the results then are presented to the Academic Assembly.
- There was a question about the reason for the proposed change.
- Response: The change increases options for the department to offer 1 unit seminars in the future, depending on faculty workload.

***No objections. Stands approved at 6-0-0.***

**Note: 5 voting members of the Graduate Studies Committee attended the meeting. L. Simonovis-Brown was unable to attend due to illness but e-mailed R. Kaufmann prior to the meeting to approve this proposed course revision.**

#### **V. Revision to MS-EOSC Curriculum**

- R. Kaufmann provided background and rationale for removal of EOSC 511 (statistics class) - it has been a challenge, since students enter the program with diverse levels and types of preparation. Addition of EOSC 573 (climatology course) was due to accidental omission during the previous program revision.
- A member inquired whether removal of statistics class would place students at a disadvantage should they decide to continue with doctoral studies in the future.
- Response: there are various other avenues for students to obtain additional statistics knowledge, including self-study and enrolling in a similar course elsewhere.
- Response: the program admission requirements now include a statistics course; this was not the case in the past, when the statistics course was included in the curriculum.

***No objections. Stands approved at 6-0-0.***

**Note: 5 voting members of the Graduate Studies Committee attended the meeting. L. Simonovis-Brown was unable to attend due to illness but e-mailed R. Kaufmann prior to the meeting to approve this proposed program revision.**

#### **VI. Combined BA/MS Program**

- R. Kaufmann provided background information on the program. He also opined that the dual program would be a good fit for some students who are already excelling in the BA program and wish to develop their research projects into a M.S. thesis.

- A member endorsed the proposed combined degree program, commenting that it would raise the academic profile of USD; another member concurred.
- A member inquired whether adoption of the BA/MS program would result in an increase in graduate student enrollment.
- Response: there may be a net increase of 1 to 2 students in the short term. The more noticeable and immediate change would be undergraduate students being able to work more closely with faculty members to build on the research that many students carry out already.
- Response: the MS program is currently much smaller than the BA program, and the combined degree program would be an overall positive step.

***All voting members in favor. Stands approved at 6-0-0.***

**Note: 5 voting members of the Graduate Studies Committee attended the meeting. L. Simonovis-Brown was unable to attend due to illness but e-mailed R. Kaufmann prior to the meeting to approve this proposed combined degree program.**