

Catawba College

GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING

October 23, 2018 11:00 a.m.
ADMIN 235

Agenda

The Graduate Council met in ADMIN 235 at 11 a.m. In attendance: Kim Creamer (Chair), Katherine Baker, Jay Bolin, Mahsa Khoshnoud, Victor Romano, Darin Spencer, Pam Thompson, Valerie Rakes, & John Zerger.

Old Business

Minutes from the Oct 9 2018 meeting were approved unanimously with one minor edit to those in attendance.

New Business

Feedback on Overall Proposal and Program Viability section of the MSADA proposal were sent to Sharon Sullivan since the last meeting and the Graduate Council received responses clarifying concerns. In general, the committee was satisfied with the responses from the Provost's office.

Main Points of concern regarding the MSADA proposal and responses from Assistant Provost Sharon Sullivan summarized here.

- Need for the program description to be more comprehensive and directly match program goals listed.

Response "SACSCOC does not require program goals and outcomes to be linked to specific course goals." "Pam has linked program outcomes to the course outcomes on the attached Excel sheet"

- Faculty expertise to cover proposed courses – particularly at the 6000 level? Ph.D. in Computer Science? What are the requirements? Who is/is not qualified (currently at Catawba) to teach the specific courses in the program? New hires? Concerned that we will not meet SACS requirements.

Response “I have attached the faculty qualification form that I will be submitting with the SACSCOC substantive change prospectus for this new degree program. It is very typical to have for a new program new faculty listed with the qualifications you want them to have. SACSCOC does not require an institution to have all faculty in place before submitting a prospectus. We meet all SACSCOC requirements in regards to faculty qualifications.”

- Concern about the financial viability of the program considering the competition.

Response “This is an administrative decision.”

- Concern about appropriate library resources available?

Response “Pam has compiled a list of journals (see attached) that the College currently has access to. The list has been approved by Earl Givens”

MSADA Discussion on Academic Rigor and Policy.

Victor Romano: States that meeting SACS requirements and launching a viable and high quality program are two different things. General group discussion indicates again that this is a concern but that program viability is outside the purview of the committee as indicated in the response from Sharon Sullivan.

Victor Romano: Looking ahead, should we declare a new mission statement for the graduate program that is different from our undergraduate liberal arts based mission statement. General group discussion that this is an excellent idea but is beyond the immediate mission of the Graduate Council.

General consensus and discussion on SACS requirements for the MSADA: This program appears meets SACS requirements and is not seeking outside professional accreditation.

John Zerger: Clarification in paperwork is required regarding course numbering, some courses are not at 5000 level.

Jay Bolin: Pacing of DATA 5100 seems slow, no statistical tests until week 7. Baker and Thompson: This course is introductory which includes no prerequisites of mastery of SAS or running software based statistical packages. Statistical testing and the various statistical tests will be scaffolded throughout the MS curriculum after DATA 5100.

John Zerger: The syllabi for the MSADA program are, representative *not* prescriptive, for some portions of the syllabi such as the “missed work policy” & “implementation of the honor code”, the content of the courses are the emphases of the sample syllabi. This proposal may wish to make some sections more generalized.

Victor Romano: #6 on the new course proposal form “Provide a rationale for adding the course.....”. Suggested modification to justify proposed course based on SAS best practices and model programs such as UNCC on each new course proposal form.

Jay Bolin comment: Does the Capstone DATA 6190 Capstone Course require an external presentation or publication as part of a non-thesis applied masters program. Pam Thompson: the Capstone Course should result in a publication, presentation, or deliverable to a business.

Discussion regarding the mechanics of the final vote on the curriculum as presented for the proposed MSADA program.

Pam Thompson, Jon Zerger, Kathy Baker will abstain.

Vote will occur via email this week or next Tuesday.

The meeting concluded at 11:50 am. There may be a need to hold a scheduled meeting on Oct. 30th at 11:00 am, however the next meeting time is TBD based on feedback and the pending committee vote.

Minutes prepared by J.F. Bolin