

2023-2024 Graduate Council

AGENDA Meeting #2

Theme: Combined Programs

[Zoom Link](#)

October 20, 2023 1:00 to 3:00 pm

Faculty Representatives:

Tierney McCleary (GACET, STPSM) (Chair);
Muhammad Ahmed (GACET)
Olivia Ford (CHHS—Health Science & Social Work)
Suzanne Gray (LIB)
Ildi Porter-Szucs (CAS-Humanities),
Brian Spolans (CAS --Fine/Performing Arts)
John Sonnega (CHHS-Nursing and HPHP),
Tucker Staley (Fall 2023) TBD (Winter 2024) (CAS-Social Sciences)
Jessica Swan (COE)

Graduate School Representatives:

Steven Pernecky (Graduate School) and
Jenny Kindred (Faculty Associate)

Call to order: 1:02pm

1. Approval of the Agenda

- IP-S motions to approve, TS seconds; unanimous approval

2. Introductions of those new to the committee this meeting.

- OF, JSo, and SG introduced selves

3. Election of Secretary

- Will rotate responsibility of taking minutes.

4. Approval of ([Minutes from September Meeting](#))—(thank you TS)

- TS motions to approve, JSo seconds; 6 approve, 2 abstentions, 0 oppose

5. Announcements from Chair

- Need to make efforts to remain on topic and adhere to topics being discussed

6. Communication from the Graduate School

- Grad School Reps yield announcement time so meeting time can be focused on discussion of combined program credit minimum.
- SP will email out enrollment information.

Unfinished Business

Combined Programs Policy Decision–input needed.

1. Please Read the [documents](#) on combined programs provided before the meeting to facilitate discussion. [Meeting minutes](#) from February 23 GC meeting that already approved a reduction in overall required hours–discussion to focus on actual number with rationale to provide to provost.

- a. Input needed:

- i. Faculty pointed out that this topic was initially brought forth at the February 2023 meeting and asked why it has taken so long to get to the point of making a recommendation for the Provost.
 - ii. Faculty indicated this was actually first brought forth at the October 2022 meeting but it took time to gather the background information needed to make an informed decision.
 - iii. Grad School Rep indicated the Provost is looking for a detailed rationale for the credit minimum and Grad Council should include the data we consider in the rational document.
 - iv. Grad School Rep shared data on current EMU combined programs with respect to overall credits, breakdown of UG and GR credits, and GR credits used towards UG degree.
 - v. Faculty shared information from HLC guidelines which includes a minimum of 120 credits hours towards the UG degree and 30 towards the GR degree, no more than 50% of GR credits should count towards the UG degree and that at least 50% of the credits used for the GR degree should be GR work.
 - vi. Information from combined programs at comparable institutions was shared.
 - vii. Grad School Rep shared draft of input document for Grad Council to fill in.
 - viii. Faculty agree that programs should have autonomy to require more than the minimum set.
 - ix. Grad School Rep confirmed Provost specifically requested Grad Council recommend a minimum.

1. Number of Hours minimum for combined program (e.g. 138, 140, 142) along with corresponding rationale that supports that number.

- a. Faculty motions that Grad Council recommend minimum of 135 with 120 towards UG degree and 30 towards GR. Up to 50% of GR credits can be used

- towards UG degree but UG credits can't be used towards GR degree
 - b. Faculty provides a second to the motion
 - c. 7 in favor, 1 abstention, 0 oppose
- 2. How does this reduction impact academic integrity of the program and rigor of the degrees (if any).
 - a. Reduction will come from UG electives not associated with major
 - b. Programs can require additional credits as needed.
- 3. Faculty fill in the input document and Grad Council reviews/edits
 - a. Faculty move to approve input document, faculty second
 - b. 7 in favor, 1 abstention, 0 oppose

Grad School Rep shared Grad School policy and procedures regarding cross-listing of UG and GR courses

1. Page 12: [Graduate School Academic Policies and Procedures](#)
2. Exceptions are approved on a case-by-case basis
 - a. Department Chair/School Director should review, then Dean review, then rationale outlining maintenance of academic rigor provided to Grad School
 - b. Approval process only required first time courses cross-listed
 - c. Input on process requested
 1. Examples of exceptions were provided by faculty
 2. Faculty noted that determination of academic rigor will be department/program specific
 3. Some faculty concerned policy too complicated but others feel process for exceptions allows for flexibility
 4. Grad School Rep provided concern that courses should not be cross-listed to "save enrollment" and Grad School wants to ensure Chairs/Directors/Deans are doing due diligence to ensure rigor is assessed and maintained
 5. Further discussion tabled until November meeting when Grad School Rep will share form and process used by CAS

Faculty brought up concern about graduate courses being cancelled due to low enrollment (i.e., less than 12 students enrolled).

1. Indicates the EMU enrollment minimum is higher than comparable institutions
2. Believe 12 is not reasonable for many programs
3. Can impact ability of students to graduate "on time" if needed courses aren't offered, students end up taking courses in other programs or Independent Studies
4. Can negatively impact students who are receiving funds from employers for tuition

5. Faculty asks where the enrollment number of 12 comes from and where the directive to cancel courses comes from.
6. Grad School Rep indicates this is beyond the purview of the Grad School
7. Faculty indicates Registrar questioning number of sections of Independent Study
8. Faculty states administration has to balance needs of students with university finances
9. Faculty expresses concern over EMU's ability to financially sustain all of the graduate programs we currently have and indicates catalog often not up to date with respect to course rotation schedule, which can throw off students
10. Faculty states the role of the Grad Council is to support Graduate faculty and programs and university finances should not be a concern of this committee.
11. Faculty motions to request the Faculty Senate take action on the issue of graduate course cancellation due to low enrollment
 - a. Faculty seconds
 - b. 6 in favor, 1 abstention, 0 opposed (one committee member left meeting before the vote)

Faculty move and second to adjourn; unanimous approval

Upcoming events:

GC Meeting #2 October 20, 2023 via Zoom
 GC Meeting # 3 November 17, 2023 via Zoom
 GC Meeting # 4 January 19, 2024 Via Zoom
 GC Meeting #5 February 23, 2024 Via Zoom
 GC Meeting #6 March 15, 2024 Via Zoom
 GC Meeting #7 April 5, 2024 Via Zoom (If needed)

- Dissertation Deadlines:
 - Nov 1 (December Commencement);
 - March 1 (April Commencement);
 - July 1** (August Commencement)
- Thesis Deadlines:
 - Nov 15 (December Commencement);
 - March 15 (April Commencement);
 - July 15** (August Commencement)

** These deadlines are earlier than they were the previous year

- Graduate Research Conference: **March 15**

Next Meeting: **November 17, 2023** (1:00-3:00)

Graduate Council: <https://www.emich.edu/facultysenate/gradcouncil/index.php>