

Graduate Council Meeting  
Thursday, November 9, 2023

**Present:** Professors: Barragan, Doucette, Filios, Frank, Hoffman, Hribar, Legge, O'Shaughnessy, Qian, Van Otterloo; Graduate Students: Ismaiel, Monaghan, Nennig, Tennessen; Graduate College Personnel: Arbisi-Kelm, Danger, McKibben, Ta, Teitle, Thein

**Absent:** Professors: Beck, Buck, Johnson

The meeting was called to order by Dean Thein at 8:17 a.m.

**1. Welcome & Announcements**

Graduate College announcements:

- Dean Thein – 3MT finals tomorrow at Art Building West <https://grad.uiowa.edu/2023-3mt-showcase>. This year City High AP Research students will be there before the showcase to talk to the finalists.
- Commencements will both be in Hancher on Friday, December 15.
- Higher Learning Commission (HLC) learning outcomes project reminder. UI is accredited by the HLC. When they conducted last comprehensive review in AY18-19, the review committee identified graduate education learning outcomes as one of two areas of improvement. Since that time the Graduate College collected learning outcomes, then published by many program learning outcomes in the General Catalog. The Graduate College recognizes the efforts it took to develop those learning outcomes and is grateful for continued cooperation as we build a plan for assessment of the learning outcomes. This fall we will revisit and reflect on the learning outcomes. A survey is planned to be distributed to programs this fall, asking to report on the status of their outcomes. A few short questions will be on the survey such as: 1) to what extent do faculty adequately characterize the expectations, 2) how would your program further development (if at all), and 3) what learning outcome will you undertake assessing in the next year. Survey deadline of February 1 is expected and shared with the academic college associate deans of graduate education. A notice will be sent via the DGS listserv. One submission per program objective per program (learning outcomes were developed for program level of study, not subprograms). Colleges or departments may go to the subprogram level, should they choose. It is important to get started at the University level. The Graduate College continues to appreciate your assistance.
- Grad Faculty vote was positive for both proposals: 1) Business Analytics (MS) learning center closure, and 2) Social Work (MSW) learning center closure.

Graduate Student Senate announcements:

- Monaghan, GSS President, is reinstating Coffee Hour. Jakobsen Committee will host an award for 3MT tomorrow. GSS voted to approve the e-waste initiative. E-waste initiative, being led by the Sustainability Committee, is searching for drop off location/s across campus,

**2. Minutes of the October 19, 2023, meeting.** Legge made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Filios. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**3. Discussion: Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Spotlight: a discussion of equity in students' learning experiences.**

Dr. Richard Shields, Director of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Sciences joined to discuss: Paving the Way Forward - Understanding the learning environment to improve the student experience. Our Mission: to develop a workforce that can deliver value-based care for all people who need our services.

An article in the Journal of the American Medical Association identified medical students who experience mistreatment have career regret. In assessing the physical therapy field, black and other minoritized identities are underrepresented in the profession. Salary growth is not keeping up with the expense of obtaining degree in physical therapy and their level of debt is increasing. Regarding career pathways, the minoritized identity group plan to care for people in underserved populations. However, debt does effect their career choice. Simply put they can't afford to go to areas where pay is not as high.

The physical therapy program at the University of Iowa aspires to increase the workforce in underserved communities. Students from diverse backgrounds have a strong interest in working in underserved areas. Students from diverse backgrounds perceive a different experience compared to those from nondiverse backgrounds. The program is reflecting on how it can improve the experience of all students and examining whether there are long-standing policies or procedures that affect learning experiences of student from minoritized groups.

**4. Proposal: Permanently adopt DET (Duolingo English Test) as admissions English proficiency option for international students and raise the minimum required score from 105 to 120.**

Dean Their provided a summary of this proposal and background. In the October 19, 2023, meeting of Graduate Council discussion around whether to permanently accept the DET exam and to raise the minimum score. Adoption of the proposal is not necessary, but status quo may not be a better outcome. If it is not approved, she seeks a deadline for reconsideration, so that de facto does not become permanent.

Assistant Dean Arbisi-Kelm shared follow up information requested at the last meeting. Test distribution: who is taking DET, IELTS, TOEFL, no test. GPA comparisons at UI for the three exams. As score increases, GPA rises. The use of DET has steadily increased since implementation. Dashboard data distribution changes are possible as we have more DET test takers 2021 vs 2023. Graduate Council members discussed the proposal to their satisfaction.

A vote to raise the minimum from 105 to 120 was undertaken. Hribar made a motion to approve the proposed change. The motion was seconded by Doucette. The motion passed (10-1 in favor).

Another vote on adopting the DET as admissions English proficiency option on an interim basis for three years. A motion was made by Filios. The motion was seconded by Qian. The motion passed unanimously to approve a three-year interim adoption of the DET.

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 a.m.