

Graduate Council Meeting
Thursday, October 19, 2023

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

Absent: Professors: Beck, Buck

The meeting was called to order by Dean Thein at 08:17 a.m.

1. Welcome & Announcements

Graduate College announcements:

- Katie McKibben, Director of External Relations, is looking for young local alumni to speak at commencement ceremonies in fall and spring.
- Travis Kraus, Director of the Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities will represent the Graduate College on the New Alumni Leadership Council.
- Dean Thein announced the launch of first SCOTUS module. It is a short model, very informative, and asks the members to encourage their colleagues to take it. This module is one of several being shared throughout BigTen. The hope is to roll out a new module each week over the next ten weeks. The next module is titled, "Systems."
- The Associate Dean search committee held a kickoff meeting, they are reviewing candidates now.
- Recently the Graduate College External advisory Board met. The agenda included students with new peer-to-peer (P2P) program as well as neuroscience students. Discussion engagement was high between students and alumni.
- 3MT finals are scheduled for November 10, 2023. 3MT is a fun event to watch for all audiences as the presenters are condensing their research and talking in layperson language. The event is in Art Building West, it is expected the presentations will be recorded. There will be approximately 50 City High School students, who will help choose the People's Choice winner.
- Grad Faculty vote is underway for closing learning centers for the Master of Social Work (MSW) and the Master of Science (MS) in Business Analytics programs. Social Work was presented and approved by Graduate Council in Spring 2023, whereas the MS in Business Analytics was presented and approved in Fall 2023.

Graduate Student Senate announcements:

- Monaghan, GSS President, will be meeting this afternoon with Social Committee to discuss ways to engage graduate students. She will continue talks regarding workshops for graduate students.
- Monaghan attended the Graduate College External Advisory Board and was able to meet with alumni and board members outside of the ascribed agenda.

2. Minutes of the October 5, 2023, meeting. O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Doucette. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. 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.

Assistant Dean Arbisi-Kelm provided background about this proposal including that DET exam was introduced to Iowa graduate admissions in 2020. It met the need for examination during the pandemic as it was an 100% online option. She provided information regarding other BigTen institutions use of DET and their testing thresholds. Melissa Meisterheim, Director of English as a Second Language Program, reviewed test qualities, including advantages and disadvantages of the exam, and data on minimum score comparison. Andrew Wade, International Graduate Admissions, provided Iowa campus data and insights. Kevin Hostetler was introduced and reviewed the mission of Duolingo and its evolving exam use for international admissions. Mr. Hostetler highlighted DET is asynchronous, uses artificial intelligence to look for 150 “flags”, two human proctors to certify the security of the exam.

A request was made for further discussion over the DET technical manual as it compares with the technical manuals of the other exams accepted for Iowa graduate admissions. This agenda item will be revisited at a future meeting of the Graduate Council.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.