

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 6, 2023
Remotely with Google Meet 3:30pm-5:00pm

Present: Nermin Bayazit, Denise Bertrand, Xuzhou Chen, Lynn D'Agostino, Becky Copper-Glenz, Nirajan Mani, Amy McGlothlin, Jennifer Murray, Daniel Sarefield, David Weiss

Absent: Barbara Cormier, Petri Flint, Michael Hoberman, Kyle Moody and Nancy Murray

Review of the Minutes from March 2, 2022

Motion to Review: David Weiss

Second: Nermin Bayazit

Vote: Unanimous

David Weiss: On the minutes from March 2, 2023 for GCE-22-23-09 and GCE22-23-10 states Weibe and should be Weiss.

Denise Bertrand: I will make the corrections.

Motion to Accept with change from Weibe to Weiss: David Weiss

Second: Brady Chen

Vote: Unanimous

Update from the registrar's office: Non-substantive change requests. Changes to pre-requisites, course description and course titles. Items were discussed.

Motion to Review Proposals: David Weiss

Second: Nermin Bayazit

Vote: Unanimous

Proposals:

GCE-22-23-12 – GCE New graduate course – Community Reentry & Integration (David Weiss)

David Weiss: This course looks at individuals who have been incarcerated and are set to be reintegrated back into the community. We know that 95 to 97% of individuals locked up in prisons will go back into the community, very few of them are kept in prison for life. Part of what makes crime cessation important is how individuals are reintegrated back into the community. Are they going back into the same community from whence they came? Is that a good thing? Is that a bad thing? Do they have family support? Do they need job training? Do they need a GED? Do they need life skills? This is a course that explores how to help individuals succeed and be reintegrated back into the community and all the factors that go into it.

Lynn D'Agostino: It says there's no prerequisites for this course, but can someone from outside the program take the course.

David Weiss: Yes, depending on their program requirements.

Lynn D'Agostino: People outside of CJ could understand the material and be welcomed in.

David Weiss: That's correct.

Nirajan Mani: How can we justify the 8000 level and is it possible to include the grading scale?

David Weiss: I will ask Eileen Kirk to include a grading scale in the syllabus. As far as the level, we have 7000, 8000 and 9000 level courses given the nature of the work itself required from grad students, Eileen felt that it rose to the level of 8000.

Motion to Approve Proposal with a friendly amendment to add grading scale to syllabus:

Nirajan Mani

Second: Daniel Sarefield

Vote: Unanimous

GCE-22-23-13 – GCE New Graduate Course – Community Justice Approach to Criminal Justice (David Weiss)

David Weiss: This is a community justice approach to criminal justice. This is the course that helps explain the concentration itself. This is a community-oriented approach to crime prevention, crime cessation in a way to achieve justice. We are referring to community justice and the techniques that are being used to achieve community justice/social justice within the criminal justice system outside of the more appearances of incarceration.

Nirajan Mani: The grading scale is missing on this one as well.

David Weiss: I will fix it.

Motion to Approve Proposal with a friendly amendment to add a grading scale to the syllabus: Nermin Bayazit

Second: Daniel Sarefield

Vote: Unanimous

GCE-22-23-14 – GCE New Graduate Course – Beyond Incarceration – Community Justice Practices in Corrections (David Weiss)

David Weiss: This is a course that we offer that deals with probation, parole, pretrial services and other restorative justice principles. It is a course that focuses in on how to respond to crime, causation and cessation once it has begun and the tools beyond incarceration itself.

It was developed by Corey Ryan from human services so it has more of a clinical approach.

Nermin Bayazit: Is there a similar undergraduate course?

David Weiss: Yes. We have an undergraduate course that's called community-based corrections it is pretty straightforward. It includes information on probation parole and pretrial services. This course will deal with those same topics but also broader topics with restorative justice principles that include trauma-informed justice. They do not have the same course content, but there's overlap. This is the graduate level, which is much broader than just probation, parole and pretrial services. It brings in restorative justice principles.

An individual who took the undergraduate level would probably be interested in this course and would learn a whole lot more. There'd be less of an emphasis on probation parole and pre-trial services although it'd be mentioned, but it really extends way beyond that for restorative justice principles and conflict resolution.

Becky Copper-Glenz: There could be an opportunity for cross-listing for some courses but not in this case, they're meant to be a little bit different.

David Weiss: Yes, that is correct.

Motion to Approve Proposal: Daniel Sarefield

Second: Nermin Bayazit

Vote: Unanimous

GCE-22-23-15 – GCE New Graduate Program – Community Justice Concentration (David Weiss)

David Weiss: The concentration itself is called the community justice concentration. This is a broader concentration which focuses on crime, causation and crime cessation. This is a concentration that looks at a system approach as to why crime is happening and what we can do to stop it either before it happens or once it starts. It's a much broader systems approach to the criminal justice system.

It is the addition of a new and third concentration within our MSCJ program. This third concentration that we are proposing is for any individual either inside Fitchburg State or from the community. It's a 30-credit concentration which is in line with our professional studies, concentration of 30 credits, the core requirements for this are the exact same as it is for our other two concentrations. If somebody is coming in from the outside and they don't have a bachelor's degree in criminal justice or criminology or they don't have substantive work experience in the CJ field, we require CJ 7240 to be taken. Whether CJ 7240 is needed will be determined during the application review process. When I take a look at the applications coming in, CJ 7240 may or may not be required depending upon one's academic work background. The other four classes are required Ethics Crime, Causation Program Evaluation, Cultural Diversity and Communication. The additional requirements for this concentration include the foundational

course, Community Justice Approach to Criminal Justice and Integration and then the third class which is Social Relations and the Legal System. Depending then upon if they have to take CJ 7240 they would take another two or three electives beyond these required courses.

Nirajan Mani: Are these all 3 credit courses?

David Weiss: Yes.

Nirajan Mani: Why does it say two or three electives?

David Weiss: The first-class CJ-7240 says as required. If you apply to this master's program and you already have a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, we do not require that CJ 7240. If they come in with a bachelor's degree, they would only have to take four core classes and three electives.

Nirajan Mani: Is there a plan of student for this course.

David Weiss: No

Nirajan Mani: That means any course can be taken by the student if it is offered?

David Weiss: That's correct.

Xuzhou Chen: Maybe you can clarify how many electives are required?

David Weiss: I will do that as a friendly amendment.

Motion to Approve Proposal with a friendly amendment to clarify the number of electives required: Nermin Bayazit

Second: David Weiss

Vote: Unanimous

New Business: No other new business.

Motion to Adjourn: Everyone

Second: Everyone

Next meeting: May 4, 2023