

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES COMMITTEE

FULL COMMITTEE

MINUTES

April 10, 2006

2:00-4:30

ACC 312

I. Minutes from meeting of March 6, 2006

➤ **APPROVED.**

II. Administrative Items

➤ **APPROVED.**

III. Deferral Addendum

No deferral addendum

IV. Information Items

No information items

PANEL A: HEALTH, NATURAL SCIENCES, AND COMMUNICATION

DEFERRED ITEMS:

No deferred items.

NEW ITEMS:

V. KECK SCHOOL OF MEDICINE: PATHOLOGY

Req. by David R. Hinton

Add a new course:

Eff. Fall 2006

INTD 650 STEM CELL BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE (4, Sp)

Basic principles, available embryonic and adult stem cells, principles of organogenesis and regeneration, animal models, delivery of engineered tissues to patients, promise and limitations of stem cells. Open to master's and Ph.D. students on the health science campus and to medical and post-doctoral fellow trainees only. Prerequisite: INTD 531 or INTD 571.

ALSO: PATH 650 STEM CELL BIOLOGY (4, Sp)

(Enroll in INTD 650.)

- **DEFERRED TO PANEL CHAIR.** The overall course looks fine. The panel recommended to the department that the syllabus be revised to include more basic information about the course. Specifically, the syllabus should include a list of objectives, a list of instructors (including contact information—the names are given in the syllabus, but it would be helpful to have contact information), a statement regarding the examination/grading policy—there's a brief statement at the top stating that there is a mid-term and final exam, but it doesn't specify the weighting of each. In addition, there should be a reading list—preferably related to the lecture topics-- and the panel notes that there is no statement in the syllabus describing resources for students with disabilities. One committee member inquired as to why it was specified for students on the health sciences campus, and another committee member from the health science campus clarified that the course emanated from a grant involving individuals from Caltech and Children's Hospital and USC, and originally it was thought that all constituencies would take one course. It was later discovered that the grant requires that each group have its own course. The department is asked to specify what the exact restrictions are, if any.

PANEL B: SOCIAL SCIENCES, HUMANITIES, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, AND LAW

DEFERRED ITEMS:

No deferred items.

NEW ITEMS:

VI. ARCHITECTURE

Req. by Gerald C. Davison

Add a new course:

Eff. Fall 2006

ARCH 519 SUSTAINABILITY IN THE ENVIRONMENT: INFRASTRUCTURES, URBAN LANDSCAPES, AND BUILDINGS (3, FaSp)

Methodologies and exercises on contextual design and environmentally sound technologies (EST's) applications for the sustainability of urban infrastructures, operative landscapes, and building integration in the urban system.

- **APPROVED with clarification.** The panel notes from the #301 form that the unit value of the course is 3 and this includes 3 hours of lecture plus 3 hours of discussion per week; however the discussions aren't factored into the grade breakdown nor are they described in the syllabus. Also, the #301 form shows the grading option as Letter and CR/NC; the department was contacted and they clarified that it is to be letter-graded.

VII. FINE ARTS and HEBREW UNION COLLEGE Req. by Ruth Weisberg and Lewis Barth

Add a new dual degree program:

Eff. Fall 2006

Master of Public Art Studies/M.A., Jewish Communal Service [70 unit program]

➤ **APPROVED.**

VIII. LETTERS, ARTS AND SCIENCES

Req. by Jennifer Wolch

Resubmission of a proposal to add a new degree program:

Eff. Fall 2006

Master of Liberal Studies [27 unit program]

- **12/12/05 GPSC MEETING: DEFERRED to panel.** It seems unusual to the committee to have a non-MA (read professional) degree program for a College degree. The proposed degree does not appear to intend to prepare a student for a profession, so it seems inappropriate to consider it a professional degree. Master's programs that are not MA or MS degrees are conferred by professional schools instead of the Graduate School, to prepare students for a profession. The program resembles a continuing education program that the University offered years ago through the College of Continuing Education, which, when the CCE was dissolved, was not picked up by any of the schools. The rationale for the program is not sufficiently explicit, and more course proposals (at least enough to constitute a sample program) are needed before the program can be approved. If they mean to include courses from other departments as elective courses, that needs to be spelled out. Questions about the structure of the program are unclear. Will students be advised by one advisor or a committee? What are the admissions requirements? They are provided in the catalogue copy and not the form; please clarify. The program description indicates that students must be continuously enrolled, but it is not clear happens when they do not. Finally, it is not clear why the courses should be at the 900 level; there doesn't seem to be a compelling reason for this. Dan Bayer, primary faculty contact, is to be invited to attend the January meeting to answer the committee's questions.
- **1/9/06 GPSC MEETING: DENIED.** No written response or additional course requests were provided in advance. Dan Bayer, who attended the meeting, explained that the program is designed to appeal to those individuals who inhabit the downtown Los Angeles area who have bachelor's degrees and "an intellectual itch to scratch." The proposers want to make it possible for persons interested in the natural and physical sciences as well as the social sciences and arts and humanities to pursue this degree. It is designed for students to take one course in the fall, another in the spring, and a two-week intensive field study in the summer, for three years. Committee members expressed discomfort approving a program for which only two courses (8 units) out of the total number have been proposed. While it is theoretically possible to complete the requirements for the degree with existing courses it seems unlikely that many departments would be willing to permit these students in their classes, as sometimes departments limit enrollment in their courses to students pursuing degrees in their own area. A conundrum exists; the GPSC has trouble approving a program without a sufficient number of applicable courses, and the proposing unit has difficulty asking faculty to develop courses for a program that is not off the ground. Committee members agreed that the program was not sufficiently developed and consisted of a small number of courses that also are not well developed. The fact that it is aimed at working professionals who are unlikely to make this their first priority means that the potential for their starting and stopping over a long period of time seems great.
- **APPROVED.** Jane Cody attended the meeting to answer questions about the program. She indicated that the target group of students for this program consists of individuals who are 10 to 15 years away from their undergraduate studies. Residents of downtown Los Angeles – lawyers, executives – parents of USC students, are among this group. This time the submission included many more course requests that cover a wide range of topics. The courses proposed are only the initial batch; it is expected that the number of courses will grow. One committee member asked why the courses were designed only for students in the program, since some graduate students would surely find this

subject matter interesting and appropriate for their degree programs. Those running the program indicated that exceptions would be given on a case-by-case basis, but that they see this group as having different goals and needs than those in other degree programs. The degree is a College degree, conferred by the Graduate School, but they are asking that it be referred to as an 'M.L.S,' not an M.A. in Liberal Arts, partly because the acronym would be M.A.L.A, which has a negative association in modern languages. The MLS acronym is used at other institutions, as well. The program will be limited to 27 units because they expect the students to take one course at a time and they want the students to be able to finish in a relatively timely manner. The Graduate School limit is five years; a student who takes one three-unit course each semester, including summer, would complete the program in three years. The program may develop another track for the program that could be followed for those who want to pursue it in a progressive degree format. The GRE will not necessarily be required, but there is a minimum 3.0 admission requirement.

Resubmission includes 10 new courses:

NOTE: The new prefix "MLS" must be approved by the Registrar. Also, it was noticed that there were discrepancies between the #301 forms and the Catalogue copy for MLS 500, MLS 512 and MLS 585abz. The department provided the correct information which is reflected below on these minutes.

A. MLS 500 INTRODUCTION TO LIBERAL STUDIES: METHODS OF KNOWING (3, FaSp)
Introduction to research methods in the social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences; then methods for applied interdisciplinary research. Graded CR/NC.

➤ **APPROVED.**

B. MLS 510 CITIES AND GLOBALIZATION (3, FaSp)
Contemporary urban theory and comparative urban analysis. Emphasis on the role of globalization in shaping urban form and problems. Prerequisite: MLS 500.

➤ **APPROVED with suggestion:** The syllabus would benefit from an expanded description of paper # 1.

C. MLS 512 LANGUAGE IN A GLOBALIZING WORLD (3, FaSp)
Examination of the relationship between language and geo-political change, endangered and minority languages, and the public policy implications of multi-lingualism and multi-culturalism. Prerequisite: MLS 500.

➤ **APPROVED.**

D. MLS 540 HELL, PURGATORY, AND PARADISE: DANTE'S *DIVINE COMEDY* (3, FaSp)
In-depth reading and analysis of *Divine Comedy*, in order to develop appreciation for changing values from medieval, to Renaissance and contemporary culture. Prerequisite: MLS 500.

➤ **APPROVED.**

E. MLS 542 THE CULTURE OF COMEDY (3, FaSp)
Historical and synchronic ideas of comedy. Ways in which philosophers, artists, and everyday individuals adapt in our ever-changing world. Prerequisite: MLS 500.

➤ **APPROVED with comment:** The description of the course requirements might better serve the student if it were written in a more straightforward manner.

F. MLS 544 REPRESENTATIONS OF LOS ANGELES (3, max 9, FaSp)
Study of literary, artistic and/or dramatic expressions of Los Angeles and its inhabitants in modern and historical literature, art, photography, film, television, and architecture. Prerequisite: MLS 500.

- **APPROVED with suggestion:** The description of the two required papers might benefit from more focused information.

G. MLS 570 ECOLOGY OF NIGHT (3, FaSp)
Explore the world of night. Human perception of the stars and the role of night in history. Impact of artificial lighting on non-human species and habitat. Prerequisite: MLS 500.

- **APPROVED with comment:** The writing assignments would benefit from more detailed descriptions.

H. MLS 572 CONTROVERSIES IN SCIENCE, MEDICINE AND ETHICS (3, FaSp)
Focus on how scientific developments drive ethical issues in medicine. Exploration of ethical dimensions of issues such as stem cells, genetic engineering and reproductive technology. Prerequisite: MLS 500.

- **APPROVED with comment:** The syllabus would benefit from an expanded description of the term paper.

I. MLS 574 ADVANCES IN GENETICS AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY (3, FaSp)
How DNA directs an organism's development and how our DNA can be "read" to understand human diversity, diseases, defects, and evolution. Prerequisite: MLS 500.

- **APPROVED with suggestion:** Details should be added to describe the assessment instruments, group presentation and research paper.

J. MLS 585abz MASTER'S PROJECT (3-3-0, FaSpSm)
A summative research project completed in consultation with the student's committee. Departmental approval. Graded IP/CR/NC.

- **APPROVED.**

IX. LAS: ART HISTORY

Req. by Malcolm Baker

Add a new course:

Eff. Fall 2006

AHIS 509 SEMINAR IN ARTS OF THE ANCIENT AMERICAS (4, max 16)

In-depth exploration of a specified topic in the arts of the ancient Americas, which includes North, Central, and South America.

- **APPROVED with suggestion.** Since the research paper is 35% of the grade, more explanation should be provided in the syllabus.

X. LAS: CLASSICS

Req. by Thomas Habinek

Add a new course:

Eff. Summer 2006

CLAS 599 SPECIAL TOPICS (2-4, max 8, FaSpSm)
Special topics in classical language, literature and culture.

- **APPROVED with suggestion.** The panel recognizes that this is a sample syllabus, and due to the nature of special topics courses, each subsequent syllabus will be different, but, for this particular offering, since the seminar paper is 70% of the grade, the panel suggests that students would benefit from more explanation about the structure and content of the seminar paper.

XI. LAS: SOCIOLOGY

Req. by Michael Messner

Add a new course:

Eff. Fall 2006

SOCI 535 SOCIOLOGY OF CULTURE (4, FaSp)

Cultural theories and forms of cultural analysis appropriate for sociological research; critical examination of theory and research on how culture relates to social structure, social inequality, politics, institutions, and everyday interaction. Recommended preparation: SOCI 510 or prior undergraduate or graduate coursework in social science or communication studies.

- **APPROVED. NOTE** from the Curriculum Coordination Office: The #301 form indicates that the department requested 'prior undergraduate or graduate coursework in social science or communication studies; recommended preparation: SOCI 510.' After contact with the department, that was revised to eliminate the prerequisite and advise instead an expanded recommended preparation.

XII. THORNTON SCHOOL OF MUSIC: MUSIC EDUCATION

Req. by Gwendolyn B. McGraw

Revise a degree program:

Eff. Fall 2007

Master of Music, Music Education [30 unit program]

Add two units of MUED 590 and two units of MUED 592 as an option to the current four units required in MUED 594abz.

- **APPROVED.**

PANEL C: PHYSICAL SCIENCES, ENGINEERING, FINE ARTS and CINEMA-TELEVISION

DEFERRED ITEMS:

No deferred items.

NEW ITEMS:

XIII. VITERBI SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING: AEROSPACE AND MECHANICAL
ENGINEERING

Req. by Michael Kassner

Revise a degree program

Eff. Fall 2007

M.S., Product Development Engineering [27 unit program]

Move ISE 544 from list of Product Development Systems Technical Electives to Product Development Systems required course; move ISE 555 from Product Development Systems to Product Development Systems technical elective.

- **APPROVED.** This request is to change one course from elective to required and another course from required to elective based on the availability of courses on the DEN network. This will result in the degree program becoming fully available through DEN and thus allow greater flexibility for off-campus degree seekers. This request will benefit both students and the program.

XIV. VITERBI SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING: BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

Req. by Michael Khoo

Revise a course

Eff. Fall 2007

NEW: BME 505abL LABORATORY PROJECTS IN BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING (4-4, FaSp)

Integration of biomedical science, engineering principles and state-of-the-art technology for the study of selected physiological systems in the laboratory setting. Laboratory. (Duplicates credit in former BME 605abL.) Graded IP to letter.

OLD: BME 605abL EXPERIMENTAL PROJECTS IN BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING (3-3)

Application of modern instrumentation and data processing techniques to the experimental study of selected biosystems. Laboratory.

- **ADMINISTRATIVELY DEFERRED.** This request is to expand the laboratory rotation course for new PhD graduate students. The addition of a discussion component allows all the students in the rotation to learn about the research opportunities in an even greater number of faculty laboratories. This revised course should be useful to new PhD students as they select a project for their dissertation research. The deferral is in place in order for the department and the registrar's office to determine whether dropping BME 605abL and adding new BME 505abL is a more accurate description of the action.

XV. VITERBI SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING: COMPUTER SCIENCE

Req. by Gerard G. Medioni

A. Add a new course:

Eff. Fall 2006

CSCI 572 INFORMATION RETRIEVAL AND WEB SEARCH ENGINES (3, Sp)

Examines key aspects of information retrieval as they apply to search engines; web crawling, indexing, querying and quality of results are studied. Prerequisite: CSCI 351, CSCI 485.

- **APPROVED.** This is a new elective course designed to address an important current aspect of the Internet. The course materials supplied are appropriate and conform to GPSC norms. This course should benefit the program and students.

XVI. VITERBI SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING: ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Req. by John Choma

Revise 4 degree programs, to allow an exception to *Graduate School Policy: Eff. Fall 2007

- A. **M.S., Computer Engineering** [27 unit program]
Add to the Catalogue copy the following: "No more than three courses (maximum 12 units) may be counted at the 400 level – at least 18 advisor approved units must be taken at the 500 or 600 level."
- B. **M.S., Electrical Engineering** [27 unit program]
Replace the statement on p. 578 of the Catalogue: "(3) no more than nine units at the 400 level may be counted toward the degree – the remaining units must be taken at the 500 or 600 level" with the following statement: "No more than three courses (maximum 12 units) may be counted at the 400 level – at least 18 advisor approved units must be taken at the 500 or 600 level."
- C. **M.S., Electrical Engineering (Computer Networks)** [27 unit program]
Add to the Catalogue copy the following: "No more than three courses (maximum 12 units) may be counted at the 400 level – at least 18 advisor approved units must be taken at the 500 or 600 level."
- D. **M.S., Electrical Engineering (VLSI Design)** [27 unit program]
Add to the Catalogue copy the following: "No more than three courses (maximum 12 units) may be counted at the 400 level – at least 18 advisor approved units must be taken at the 500 or 600 level."

*Graduate School Policy on Unit Requirement from pg. 82 of the 2005-06 University Catalogue:

Unit Requirement

The minimum unit requirement for a master's degree is established at the time the program is approved and may not be waived. At least 20 of these units must be completed at USC. The minimum number of units for a doctoral degree is 60, at least 24 of which (exclusive of Doctoral Dissertation 794) must be completed at USC. In addition, at least one-half of the total number of units applied toward a graduate degree must be completed at USC. The minimum number of units for a doctoral degree with Advanced Standing upon entrance is 36. No exceptions are allowed.

A department or school which has a graduate program approved by the university requiring a higher minimum may not waive that requirement. The unit requirement for a dual degree program is established at the time the program is approved by the university and may not be waived.

Regardless of the number of units required for a graduate degree, at least two-thirds of the units applied toward the degree (including transfer work and not including 594 or 794) must be at the 500 level or higher. Students with Advanced Standing in doctoral programs may not apply additional 400-level course work toward that degree. Individual exceptions will not be allowed. Some degree programs, where designated by the faculty and approved by the Graduate and Professional Studies Committee, permit a higher maximum number of 400-level units.

Unit credit indicates the number of semester units earned in the course; these units may or may not be applicable to the degree. Degree credit indicates the units are applicable to the degree.

- **APPROVED.** The requests for all 4 of these degree programs are identical and will be considered together. The request is based on the fact that some 400 level courses are greater than 3 units, consequently a student may end up with greater than a fixed 1/3 of total units in 400 courses. An important aspect of this request is that all 4 state that the student will still be required to complete 18 units at the 500 level. Since 18 500-level units is 2/3 of the required 27 units for the degree the primary difficulty arises when a student may have 30 units for the degree yet have 12 of the 30 in 400 courses. It appears that the spirit of the university rule is that students should complete a satisfactory number of units at the graduate level and it does not seem fair to students to penalize them when they have units in excess of those needed for the degree yet have the appropriate number of 500 units if they had fewer total units. This is an important change for the students and there is no compromise on the number of 500 units that are required. want the 2/3 rule to be applied to the 27 units for the degree not the total number of units a student takes.

PANEL D: BUSINESS, POLICY, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, and EDUCATION

DEFERRED AND NEW ITEMS:

No deferred or new items.

Members present

Ronald Alkana

Frances M. Fitzgerald
(*support staff*)

Chrislynn Freed (*chair*)

Judith Garner

Elizabeth Garrett (*ex-officio*)

Sandra Howell

Julena Lind (*ex-officio*)

James Ragan

Katherine Shing

Charles Shuler

John Silvester (*ex-officio*)

Jennifer Wolch (*ex-officio*)

Members absent

Estela Bensimon

Hans Bozler

Lilia Espinoza (*student*)

C. Anderson Johnson

Carla Kaplan

Edward Maby

Franklin R. Manis

Jean Morrison (*ex-officio*)

Kenneth L. Servis (*ex-officio*)

Bryan R. Simms

Barbara Solomon

Joshua Watson (*student*)

Guests

Jane Cody

Chrislynn Freed, Chair
Graduate and Professional Studies Committee

Date