

Graduate Council  
Meeting Minutes  
April 14, April 17, April 21, 2008

April 14

Present: Song Chung, Francis Cai, Kathy Malanga, Robin Schwartz, Rochelle Kaplan

April 17

Present: Liana Fornarotto, Dorothy Feola, Rochelle Kaplan

April 21

Present: Song Chung, Francis Cai, Robin Schwartz, Marina Budhos, Rochelle Kaplan, Liana Fornarotto

On April 14<sup>th</sup> Linnie Weiland presented the program change proposal for the MAT (Master of Arts in Teaching) program. The change consisted of adding two additional tracks to the current elementary education program, one for special education and one for secondary education. The purpose of adding the tracks was to give all students who take the 30-40 credit post-baccalaureate initial certification programs in high school subject matter teaching or special education teaching the opportunity to earn a master's degree for 15 additional graduate credits. This program is consistent with similar programs provided by other colleges in the region and will make the post-baccalaureate initial certification programs more attractive to prospective students who want to get a master's degree along with their initial teacher certification.

***The program change was recommended for acceptance by the Council members present on the 14<sup>th</sup>, those present on the 21<sup>st</sup>, and those who voted online.***

Also on April 14<sup>th</sup> Jeanne Dhaem and Peter Griswold presented their proposal for a program change in the M.Ed. in Special Education. This change too consisted of adding a third track to an existing program which already has two tracks, one in Learning Disabilities and one in Developmental Disabilities. The third track will be for Teachers of Students with Disabilities (TSD) and will be an extension of the existing 22-credit endorsement program for teachers certified in other fields who want to become certified in special education. In addition to the 22 credits for the endorsement, students in the third track will be able to earn an M.Ed. in Special Education by taking an additional 12 credits consisting of courses already offered in the existing master's program and 3 credits for one new course in special education and law. This new program track is consistent with similar programs provided by other colleges in the region and will make the special education endorsement program more attractive to prospective students who want to get an advanced master's degree along with their enhanced teaching credential.

***The program change was recommended for acceptance by council members present on the 14<sup>th</sup>, those present on the 21<sup>st</sup>, and those who voted online.***

Also on April 14<sup>th</sup> Vince Parrillo presented the proposal for a program change in the existing M.A. in Sociology to make it an M.A. in Applied Sociology. Because of the complex nature of the proposal, ***Dr. Parrillo was asked to represent the program change proposal at another meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup> at which all but one member of the Council***

*were present. He was sent some questions the Council had about the proposal in advance of the meeting.*

On April 21<sup>st</sup> Vince Parrillo, Kathleen Korgen, Charley Flint, and Gabe Wang discussed their program change proposal and made it clear that the sole intent of the change was to make the program more applied in order to attract a wider audience for the degree. While most of the courses in the program are not new, the way in which they will be focused and offered is intended to appeal to a broad range of candidates seeking careers in human resources, program evaluation, education, health fields, and marketing research. This change in program emphasis is consistent with the recommendation made for the program in the University's Academic Plan for 2007-1010.

While the Council noted some issues that might crop up regarding recruitment and the scheduling of course offerings, it agreed that the focus of the proposed change was consistent with recommendations made by outside consultants and WPU administrators and that it had been thought through with careful departmental input. Therefore, *the Council agreed that the program change should be recommended for implementation as soon as possible.*

Submitted by  
Rochelle Kaplan, Council Chair