

Graduate Academic Affairs Committee– Meeting Minutes
Saint Louis University
March 13, 2026

Voting Members Present: Dana Baum, Srikanth Mudigonda, Chris Thomas, Melissa Berrien-Elliott, Rowan Hollinger, Zhenguo Lin, Marcia McCormick, Kristi Richter, Sarah Burt, Jen Popiel, Rabia Rahman, Katie Mascari, Kelly Lane-DeGraaf (proxy for Katie Stamatakis)

Non-voting Members Present: April Trees, Janie Henderson, Marissa Cope

Absentees: Toby Benis, Elizabeth Richard, Takako Nomi, Helen Lach, Simona Rentea

Guests: Divya Subramaniam, Hailong Qian

I. **Approval of February 13, 2026, Minutes:** Approved.

II. **Academic Program Proposals**

A) **New Program Proposals**

- **865: Foundations of Health Services Research, PBC**

Divya Subramaniam was available to answer questions. The letter of support from the CPHSJ Dean highlighted that this could be a part of the stackable certificates in Public Health. Once approved by the curriculum committee, MSHA students can take this certificate, and have it count for one of their certificates as part of the degrees.

Unanimously approved

B) **Program Closures**

- **185: Christian Theology, Concentration**

This closure is related to the program changes that were approved at the last GAAC. This no longer belongs in the program.

Unanimously approved

- **186: Christianity in Antiquity, Concentration**

This closure also is related to the program changes that were approved at the last GAAC. This no longer belongs in the program.

Unanimously approved

- **67: Research Ethics, Concentration (closure of this is a change to 68: Health Care Ethics PhD)**

This concentration has no students in it and does not have the demand needed to keep it open.

Unanimously approved

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- **731: Healthcare Leadership and Workforce Excellence, PBC**
Kelly Lane-DeGraaf indicated that the intention was not to close completely, so this will be sent back to the unit.

C) Program Changes

- **224: Applied Economics MS**

Hailong Qian attended to explain the changes and answer questions. The changes are in response to external reviewer recommendations for the Academic Program Review process. There is a new MS in Finance, and these changes make the difference between the two programs clearer.

Discussion focused on what knowledge or skills do students need to have to succeed in the program. Are the required courses outside the curriculum admission requirements or courses they take after admission.

GAAC requested that the program clarify expectations regarding when students take ECON 5010 and OPM 5020 so that it is clear to students what the expectations are. They voted to send this back to the department and request they update the proposal to address this issue. The committee will vote electronically once the changes are made.

- **341: Nurse Education, Post Master's Certificate**

Helen Lach explained that the program change is necessary to streamline courses and requirements for students.

GAAC approved the program change.

- **571: Social Work, PhD**

The program change is requested to clean up the catalog content regarding coursework requirements. Kristi Richter stated that these updates are consistent with current practice.

GAAC approved the program change.

- **297: Nutrition Therapy, Concentration**
- **612: Nutrition and Physical Performance, Concentration**

Rabia Rahman provided background information on this program change. Both 297 and 612 are a part of the Nutrition and Dietetics M.S. These concentration changes would eliminate the thesis requirement and instead

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require a capstone. Changes allow the program to be more in line with others. The non-internship option will also remain the same.

GAAC approved the program change

- **432: Maternal and Child Health, PBC**

Kelly Lane-deGraaf explained that this change needed to go through additional review in CPHSJ. GAAC decided to send it back to Public Health to review to clarify proposed changes.

II. Policies

- **Policy on Dually-listed Courses**

Steve Sanchez reported on the audit that colleges and schools and the provosts office did in response to CADD's request that we review current practices. Many courses across colleges and schools failed to have the type of differentiation across levels that should exist. The draft policy proposed here was modified from what GAAC reviewed last spring based upon that audit and feedback received. Feedback was provided and questions were raised about requiring similar course titles and the rationale for that expectation, the 25%/75% difference requirement, the dean's being responsible for reviewing these given decisions on course scheduling typically happen at the department level in many colleges and schools, and how to encourage culture change around this. Steve Sanchez provided insight into HLC expectations regarding course level distinctions and curriculum integrity. Discussion was had about whether or not we could enforce the current policy and was a policy revision necessary. Part of the change is separating cross-listing from dual-listing given they are distinctly different things that people don't always differentiate.

This continues to be an ongoing discussion. As this was our first discussion, Dr. Trees requested that representatives seek feedback from their constituents on the draft policy and share that in advance of or bring feedback to the April 2026 GAAC meeting.

- **Graduation Requirements Policy**

This policy was also introduced today. Key changes are to allow ABM students in programs that allow students to take 4000-level coursework (within the limits proscribed by university policy) to take that course work prior to matriculation into the graduate program and addressing how much coursework might overlap across programs.

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As this was our first discussion, Dr. Trees requested that representatives seek feedback from their constituents on the draft policy and share that in advance of or bring feedback to the April 2026 GAAC meeting.

IV. Announcements:

Next GAAC Meeting April 10 in Tegeler Hall, Room 207

Meeting Adjourned at 10:23am