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Graduate Academic Affairs Committee– Meeting Minutes
Saint Louis University
January 16, 2026

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Voting Members Present: Chris Thomas, Toby Benis, Zhenguo Lin, Rabia Rahman, Melissa Berrien-Elliott, Srikanth Mudigonda, Dana Baum, Kristi Richter, Sarah Burt, Jennifer Popiel, Simona Rentea, Helen Lach, Katie Mascari, Marcia McCormick

Non-voting Members Present: April Trees, Nicole Mispagel, Christine Harper, Janie Henderson

Absentees: Elizabeth Richard, Katie Stamatakis, Takako Nomi, Kat Walcott

Guests: Michelle Papachrisanthou, Associate Dean for Graduate Nursing Education; Kris L'Ecuyer, Interim Dean, SON; Genevieve Del Rosario, Program Director, Clinical Health Sciences; Steve Nickell, Associate Dean, Doisy College of Health Sciences; Brittany Hollister, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs, SOM; Sarah Arkebauer, Director of Graduate Programs, School of Science and Engineering; Maria Weber, Director, Cybersecurity, SPS; Dave Letscher, Computer Science

I.   **Approval of December 12, 2025 Minutes:** Approved.

II. **Academic Program Proposals**

   A. **New Program Proposals**
   - **780: Doctor of Medical Science DMS (second review)**
     Genevieve Del Rosario provided information for committee questions. A one-year faculty member will be hired to help launch the program and will continue if demand for the program remains high. Many such programs use adjuncts and most have two faculty members plus one staff person. There will be some overlap with the faculty teaching master's and doctoral courses. GAAC approved with one abstention.
   - **825: Artificial Intelligence in Medicine MS (second review)**
     The issue of required coursework has been clarified and SSE has provided a letter of support. GAAC did wonder if the title should be changed to reflect AI in health care to broaden appeal and relevance. Perhaps course descriptions could be rewritten to accomplish the same thing. April Trees will pass on to Dean Jacobs the questions about the program name and to CADD the questions of resources and possible overlap with other AI proposals. GAAC approved unanimously.
   - **769: Joanna May Service Scholars Microcredential (second review)**
     Requirements have been clarified. GAAC approved unanimously.
   - **859: Artificial Intelligence Literacy, Microcredential**
     David Letscher answered questions about the microcredential proposal. Questions were asked about the potential for integrating discipline-

specific content. Three courses may be too much for students to be able to fit along with their degree programs. Could a microcredential with fewer courses be created as an introduction or attached to specific disciplines? Or multiple microcredentials with specific foci? The title is very general, which appears to preclude others' offering it yet doesn't provide for disciplinary applications. In general, however, GAAC is excited about the possibilities. Nine credits is the size of a PBC, not a graduate microcredential. Returned to program to switch to PBC proposal and add admission criteria for PBC.

- **850: Infectious Disease Concentration (new concentration in the Nursing MS program)**
  Kris L'Ecuyer and Michelle Papachristanthou answered questions about the proposal. They provided background information on the Miles Program, which recruits international nurses to study for a year in the US followed by three or four years of work here. Miles also prepares the nurses to take the exam they need to practice here. SON expects 20 to 40 students per cohort. Students will join accelerated master's degree or nurse practitioner courses; the only stand-alone courses are those on infectious disease, and all could be taught by current faculty. GAAC advises spelling out resource needs for discussion by CADD and a statement on the percentage of applicants Miles accepts. GAAC approved unanimously contingent on adding the pro forma for CADD.

- **846: AI-Driven Software Development, Post-Baccalaureate Certificate**
  Maria Weber answered questions about the proposal. AI tools will be used to teach programming skills. Question was raised about how ethics will be addressed. The courses will cover the repercussions of AI use in organizations such as proper auditing by humans to avoid security problems. GAAC approved unanimously.

- **847: Threat Intelligence, Post-Baccalaureate Certificate**
  Maria Weber answered questions about the proposal. This certificate originates from the cybersecurity program; there is one new course. Marissa Cope is satisfied with assessment plans. GAAC approved unanimously.

- **848: AI for Cybersecurity, Post-Baccalaureate Certificate**
  Maria Weber answered questions about the proposal. Three new courses will be offered as electives. GAAC approved unanimously.

- **857: Applied AI and Decision Analytics, Post-Baccalaureate Certificate**
  GAAC approved unanimously.

B. **Program Closures**

- **537: Geology Concentration in the 536: GeoScience MS**
  No students have been admitted since 2018. GAAC approved unanimously.
- **545: Engineering MS**
- **546: Engineering PhD**
  All new engineering programs have been approved so these two should be closed out. All students have been given the option of switching to the new, specific degree programs. GAAC approved both unanimously.

C. **Program Changes**

- **205: Accounting MACC**
  This change is intended to align the program with recent changes in the CPA exam. Students entering the program without an undergraduate degree in accounting will be able to move in without too much catching up required. Two new courses have been created. April Trees noted that there is a discrepancy in the proposal regarding whether 4300 and 4110 are prerequisites, requirements, or electives. This needs to be clarified. Continuation standards also need to be cleaned up.
- **187: Theological Studies Ph.D.**
  One Theology concentration has recently lost faculty and the department is having difficulty delivering the concentration. A third concentration has been created and students will now take courses from all three concentrations during their program. More graduate courses are thus likely to make; students will be drawn in from other departments such as History. The question was raised about whether or not this model is sustainable when at least four students are required per course but only four students are admitted per year? Elective descriptions should be clarified and there must be a conversation about the 0 credit hours attached to the teaching course. Requests for clarification were sent back to the department.
- **303: Athletic Training MAT**
  Some courses have been removed and others added, adjusting how the program is delivered. GAAC approved unanimously.

III. **Policy Discussion and Approvals**

- **Microcredential (proposed revision initiated with UACC)**
  The discussion was postponed since UAAC has additional questions related to HLC expectations that they have submitted to Steve Sanchez.

IV.   **Announcements**

- Next GAAC meeting February 13 in Tegeler Hall, Room 207
- CADD update: The proposals from Health Informatics and Health Services and Clinical Outcomes Research were tabled due to questions on resources and collaboration similar to GAAC's.

V.   **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM.