

2019—2020  
Graduate Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, February 19, 2020  
12:55 p.m., Weimer 2008

**I. Call to order**

Kelleher called the meeting to order at 12:55 p.m.

**II. Approval of minutes from Feb. 5, 2020**

A motion was made to approve the minutes, seconded, approved unanimously.

**III. Update from task force to review master's tracks/requirements**

Kelleher gave an update from the degree plan task force meeting. Suggestions from the task force included the following changes to the 12 credit Core section of the degree plan—

- Adding a one-credit Pro Seminar course offered to Pro Master's students.
- Academic Writing would be a required three-credit course in the first semester of the research/theory areas.
- Pro Master's students could take either MC Research—MMC 6421 or PR Research—PUR 6506 for the research component.
- Three theory classes are available—MC Theory (research/theory areas), PR Theory (Public Relations area), and Applied Theory (Pro Master's).
- Change the title of MMC 6660 to Comm, Tech, and Society.

The electives section will require 18 credits, customizable for each area of interest. For instance, Pro Master's students with an interest in public relations would take courses in that area, in addition to other electives.

All students will be required to take six credits of thesis or project work, depending on their area. The total number of credits for all students will be 36.

Graduate Committee members discussed the possibility of making the Pro Seminar three credits, instead of just one, to include speakers and writing the project proposal.

**IV. Award Nominations**

**a. Outstanding Master's Student Award**

Taylor Thelander Vasquez was selected.

**b. Julie Dodd Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award**

Susanna Lee was selected.

Ferguson moved to change the process for the Outstanding Master's Student Award and the Julie Dodd Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award to encourage faculty to initiate nominations (rather than only allowing self-nominations from students). Motion seconded and passed. The email announcement will be sent to faculty in spring 2021.

**V. Review of doctoral applications**

The meeting continued with the review of doctoral applications.

**VI. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned.

Attending: Kelleher, Calienes, Chen, DiStaso, Ferguson, Goodman, Ostroff, Spiker, Fisher, and Hedge.