

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 21, 2019 – AC 401

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jennifer Bergner, MSME
Diamond Brown, GSC Rep
Melissa Bugdal, At-Large Seat
Celine Carayon, HIST
Doug DeWitt, Ed Leadership and Chair
Maida Finch, Seidel School Rep
Kara French, Fulton Rep
Clifton Griffin, Dean of Graduate Studies
Stuart Hamilton, GIS
Martin Hunter, Registrar
Mary Hylton, MSW
Laura Marinaro, MSAT
John Nieves – ENG, Faculty Senate Liaison
Karen Olmstead, Provost
Tom Pellingier, AHPH

Jessica Scott, OGS
Elizabeth Walk, OGS
Joyce Wiencek, REED
Dorothea Winter, DNP/Nursing

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Aaron Basko, Admissions
Gwen Beegle, MAT
Yvonne Downie Hanley, M.B.A.
Judith Franzak, Ed.D.
Jennifer Nyland, Henson Rep
Dana Price, BIO
Vicki Root, CHHS Rep
Keetha Soosaipillai, CADR

I. Call to Order – 3:32pm

II. Minutes

- The October minutes were unanimously approved with no changes.

III. Curriculum

- Biology 590 - Course changes
 - Update to be lecture only.
 - D. Winter recommended approval. It was seconded.
 - Vote: Unanimous
- Biology 591 – New Course
 - Adds special topics course to keep up with diverse faculty areas.
 - D. Winter recommended approval. It was seconded.
 - Vote: Unanimous
- REED – Program Change
 - Adds completion of PRAXIS test scores as requirement for graduation.
 - Aligns REED with ILA recommendation.
 - D. Winter recommended approval. It was seconded.
 - Vote: Unanimous

IV. Update from Safety Task Force – Maida Finch

- Dane Foust is working on program and HIPPA regulations to provide off-campus services to students.

- Students would still do in-take on campus but could get counseling off-campus. Co-pays will be reimbursable.
- M. Finch spoke to Wallace Southerland and expressed concerns that current hours are not conducive to graduate students.

V. Introductions

- Martin Hunter, the new Registrar was introduced.
- Diamond Brown, GSC representative was introduced.

VI. GSC Update – Diamond Brown

- Met past Monday and working on getting more students involved.
- Working with SGA to establish a common hour proposal which would match the all-faculty hour. Would like old time reinstated.
- In speaking to students, it was discovered that students cannot attend certain functions, like the Town Hall meeting, because they have class and cannot be excused.

VII. Dean’s Remarks

- Marketing
 - OGS is meeting with programs in person or through correspondence regarding marketing needs.
 - Develop overall strategic plan regarding marketing.
 - Sue Eagle and Katie Curtin are considering grad programs their “first client” and wants to hear from programs regarding their needs.
- Strategic Plan
 - Thanked GC members for efforts and discussions regarding strategic plan.
 - Lots of different opinions about the identity of graduate programs.
- Survey
 - OGS is working with UARA on a year-out, first destination survey.
 - Will go out in spring 20.
 - Data can be used for dashboard
 - Will consider other surveys to make sure there is no fatigue.

VIII. Other Remarks

- Celine Carayon asked for an update on graduate exchange courses.
 - History students are taking courses in other disciplines but rarely reciprocated
 - Is there a list of grad courses available in one place?
 - Stu Hamilton – Took two years to get MBA courses approved for GIS students.
 - New curriculum/catalog tool may help.

IX. Strategic Plan – K. Olmstead

- Provost is taking feedback and has extended the deadline to mid-December for comments.
- Process has been SWOT analysis a year ago. Focus groups then created bulleted items. Tactics fell into 80 different topics.
- Things to consider:
 - Ensure services are provided to current programs before growth.
 - Salary report for Grad Assistants and implications of increasing stipends.
 - New degree programs

- Research support for grad students
 - Development of grad student community.
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 - Provost will be in attendance at November meeting and will be on the agenda to discuss graduate school proposal and the current strategic plan.
- Resources:
 - Many grad students are professionals and cannot be at campus during normal business hours.
 - Can offices stay open late on certain dates?
 - Library closes at 5pm during summer hours with limited print services
 - Resources within library are not sufficient. Grad students need more books and subscriptions.
 - There is no library help available for students after 5:30pm.
 - Losing 24 hour access to library is affecting student capacity.
- Strategic Plan:
 - Uses term “undergrad” a lot. For non-undergrad areas, can we just say “student”?
 - Growth strategies should be determined in consultation with departments and programs. Some programs do need or want growth.
 - Undergrad population is declining and graduate population is increasing. SU will always be a PUI but we cannot ignore the growth potential of graduate programs.
 - Grad students are resources to undergrads and that is not reflected. Would like more networking between the two groups.
 - Programs should be measured in other ways other than enrollment.
 - Long Academic Planning Committee (LRAP) report was not accepted by Faculty Senate.
 - Faculty senate would like more time to work on response.
 - It would be helpful to see what is sustainable grad enrollment per program.
- Graduate School:
 - Creation of grad school was in last strategic plan.
 - It is listed as a tactic in new plan. Can it be considered a strategy?
 - Grad school is a vehicle to better service graduate students.
 - Faculty Senate is claiming they explicitly said “No” to the Grad School. That is incorrect. They supported services but not grad school “at that time”.
 - Some GC committee members suggested that grad school will not happen without Faculty Senate support.
 - Response: Grad Council is not a committee of Faculty Senate and does not answer to them. Faculty Senate had no control over creation of Honors College or CHHS.
 - GC members need to be heard. Go to meetings and discuss with Senators.
 - There have been concerns about budgeting and how creation of Grad School will affect money towards resources and current salaries.
 - Response: GC spent hours doing budget projections to show how enrollment would help fund it.
 - Undergrads often benefit from graduate research in terms of grants. In CHHS, grads and undergrads are working together in labs and presenting together.
- Graduate Opportunities
 - Should we consider a separate conference for grad students separate from SUSRC?
 - 3MT competitions have been attempted past with no participation.

- BIO has had success with their talks.
- Tutors are doing interdisciplinary research all the time.
- Other Comments:
 - SU has grown to a point that unified voice is hard to achieve. There are voices for and against the areas of PUI status, grad status, resident vs distance, campus vs online, etc. Groups just do not agree.
 - Provost would like GC members to send in any further comments to her.
 - Kara Owens will put ideas together.
 - There will be a meeting with LRAP to look at their revised draft which will be sent out to governing bodies.
 - Prioritizing and implementation is final goal.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Submitted by Jessica Scott