

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 16, 2023 - ZOOM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Annette Barnes, DNP, MSN
Jennifer Bergner, MSME
Stephanie Bernhard, ENGL
Melissa Bugdal, Fulton School Rep
Tom Calo, Perdue School Rep
Celine Carayon, HIST
Yvonne Downie-Hanley, M.B.A.
Maida Finch, Ed.D./REED
James Fox, EDLD
Clifton Griffin, Dean of Graduate Studies
Martin Hunter, Registrar
Allen Koehler, AVP Enrollment Management
Eric Liebgold, BIO
Scott Mazzetti, HHPF
Stephen Oby, MSW

Karen Olmstead, Provost
Nicholas Plummer, GSC President
Andrea Presotto, GIS
Jessica Scott, OGS
Ignaciyas Soosaipillai, CADR
Erin Stutelberg, MAT
Diana Wagner, MED

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Memo Diriker, Faculty Senate Liaison
Elizabeth Geiger, OGS
Thea Williamson, Seidel Rep

I. Call to Order – 3:30 p.m.

II. Curriculum Review

- PBC in Higher Education – Suspend Program
 - Does not have enough to students to remain viable.
 - GCC recommends approval. D. Wagner seconded. GC unanimously approved.
- ENGL 596 - New Grad Course – Topics in Poetry
 - This course will be part of the upcoming MA Track in Creative Writing. It will help students become more familiar with professional trends in the current writing market and practices that will be integral to the success of their writing careers. The content and theoretical specialization provided in this course will also help students be better prepared for their theses. Course topics will change in each iteration of the course in order to make sure students are abreast of the newest and most salient movements in the field of poetry.
 - GCC recommends approval. M. Bugdal seconded. GC unanimously approved.
- ENGL 598 – New Grad Course – Topics in Prose
 - This course will be an important addition to the upcoming MA Track in Creative Writing. It will help students become more familiar with professional trends in the current writing market and practices that will be integral to the success of their writing careers. The content and theoretical specialization provided in this course will also help students be better prepared for their theses. Course topics will change in each iteration of the course in order to make sure students are abreast of the newest and most salient movements in the field of prose.
 - GCC recommends approval. S. Bernhard seconded. GC unanimously approved.

III. Provost Remarks

- Would like thoughts about State of University address as it pertains to enrollment.

- President has set goal of 8500 students with 12% graduate enrollment. Need to be strategic with existing programs while considering new programs and change in modalities.
- Need to considerable deliverables.
- What resources are needed?
 - Staff
 - Reopen discussions about creating a School of Graduate Studies
 - Are GA stipends competitive to help with recruitment?
 - Technology/IT support?
 - Reimagine 4-1 programs?
- Remarks
 - C. Carayon – Very positive sign that graduate education was a prominent piece in the State of the University address.
 - D. Wagner – Education is expected to grow by 100%. There should be 2 full-time recruiters. On-campus events are not supported by SU Police. There is no help or plan to grow enrollment.
 - A. Koehler – There has been a reduction in Admissions staff. There are 8 people reviewing applications. Over 1,000 apps per counselor.
 - M. Finch – It helps that C. Griffin discusses grad enrollment in PAT meetings. Would like to see an Enrollment Action Team established for graduate studies.
 - S. Bernhard – Need to plan for different populations, those going F/T and those who need several years to complete the program. Also need to consider providing health insurance to GA's.
 - A. Barnes – Nursing is being collaborative in terms of marketing and recruitment. Found some scholarship opportunities but Financial Aid would not help administer them.
 - M. Bugdal – In 2017, 8% of usage was graduate students. In 2023 it is up to 29% but undergraduate students are needing majority of meetings. We need staff to meet grad needs.
 - C. Carayon – Had a meeting with D. DeWitt and C. Griffin in response to President's comments. Need to make sure resources are in place to support an online environment. An Enrollment Action Team should be established immediately with an action plan and deliverables. Idea of doing business will change with MD Blueprint Program.
- Bill 275
 - Provides unionization for any entitle in the USM.
 - Support is difficult but because bill doesn't acknowledge the diversity of campuses within the USM.
 - Anticipate that UMCP will dictate implementation if it is passed.
 - Takes away shared governance and there will be less employees and students.

IV. GSC Remarks – Nicolas Plummer

- C. Griffin welcomed Nicholas and thanked him for stepping in the President's role.
- GSC will meet first Sunday of each month at 7pm.
- Trying to reactivate some of the GSC programs.
- Elections will be in spring. Please help get the word out about elections and assembly.

V. Update on Grad School

- Need to understand approval process.

- The previous Grad School draft will be sent out to GC before next meeting. Now is the time to review and include any needed resources.
- Can consider a smaller group to work on a plan.
- Make sure there is a financial person included so they can explain the financial impact.
- C. Carayon – Should we include statement of stipend increase support for GA’s and adjuncts.
 - C. Griffin – It’s appropriate. Stipends have not kept up with COLA in years.

VI. Dean’s Remarks

- Looked at each program and tried to set goals to get to the 12%. This was a starting point. Some things being discussed are a masters in CMAT, modality change for other programs. Let OGS know of any new ideas.

VII. Other Remarks

- M. Finch – We need IRB reviews during the summer.
 - C. Griffin – Faculty are not on contract during the summer so it’s a challenge. Our office will work to get a quorum as needed.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

Submitted by Jessica Scott