

# Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 17, 2022 - ZOOM

## **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Melissa Bugdal, Fulton Rep  
Celine Carayon, HIST  
Doug DeWitt, Ed Leadership and Chair  
Heather Diehl, MSW  
Yvonne Downie-Hanley, M.B.A.  
Maida Finch, Ed.D./REED  
James Fox, EDLD  
Elizabeth Geiger, OGS  
Clifton Griffin, Dean of Graduate Studies  
Martin Hunter, Registrar  
Carolyne King, At-Large Seat  
Allen Koehler, AVP Enrollment Management  
Jacques Koko, CADR  
Laura Marinaro, MSAT  
Scott Mazzetti, AHPH  
Andrew Pesotto, CHHS Rep  
Dana Price, BIO

Isabel Quintana Wulf, ENGL  
Vicki Root, At-Large Rep  
Jessica Scott, OGS  
Diana Wagner, EDUC  
Star Weaver, MAT

## **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Annette Barnes, DNP/Nursing  
Jennifer Bergner, MSME  
Christina Bradley, Henson Rep  
Stuart Hamilton, GIS  
Karen Olmstead, Provost  
Jessica Strange, GSC President  
Thea Williamson, Seidel Rep

- I. D. DeWitt has returned from sabbatical and assumed Chair duties. Call to Order – 3:33 p.m.
- II. Minutes
  - Minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.
- III. Curriculum
  - EDCI 702, 704, 724, 728, 740, 742, 744, 748, 750, 793, 794, 800 and 801 – Course Change Proposal
    - Changes prereqs to align with course progression.
    - Recommended for approval by GCC. Seconded by Melissa Bugdal. Vote was unanimous.
- IV. Elections
  - J. Nieves, GCC Chair, is on sabbatical for the spring semester. V. Root is back from sabbatical and will rejoin the group and serve as Chair.
  - Academic Policies Committee – There are members that are no longer on GC. This group has been dormant for a while with no bylaw changes. Will revisit membership at next meeting.
- V. Curriculum Approval Procedures
  - At the undergraduate level, UCC decisions go straight to Provost. Graduate curriculum has several others steps. Can GCC decision be final before Provost since there have been very few issues from Grad Council?
    - C. Griffin – Curriculog now shows how much longer it is taking to get grad proposals approved. Feels his approval is not necessary and will ask to be removed.
    - D. DeWitt – There is a value to all Grad Program Directors knowing what is happening across disciplines.

- V. Root – Agrees that Grad Council is usually a rubber stamp but more representation is needed if this will be final decision. GCC can present the decisions to Grad Council for informational purposes.
- C. Carayon – Sometimes conversation can lead to insight and value.
- D. DeWitt – Make this a function of APC.

#### VI. Revised Branding Statement – C. Carayon

- After getting concerns from everyone, a branding statement was written and sent out to Grad Council for review. Is this ready to be forwarded?
- C. Griffin – If you choose to sent forward, make sure it goes to Provost and Sue Eagle. Dr. Olmstead has seen it.
- C. Carayon motioned to approve and send forward. Seconded by M. Finch and unanimously approved.

#### VII. Revisit Graduate Admissions for International Students

- Idea is to broaden ways for non-native English speakers to prove proficiency. New language was sent out to review.
- This is a minimal standard and does not mean a program cannot require higher standards.
- Y. Hanley – What if student graduates with bachelors from U.S. institution?
  - C. Griffin – Your purview to approved based on undergraduate experience.
- D. Wagner – Be cautious about using ELI. We ultimately want students to be successful and there is not a robust amount of academic support for ELI students.
- J. Koko – If student graduates from proven English institution, do they have to go through evaluation system?
  - J. Scott – Evaluations are not related to language proficiency. They are required if a student graduates from an institution that does not use equivalent of U.S. 4.0 systems.
- J. Koko – Can SU transcripts be uploaded into Slate?
  - L. Geiger – Yes, working on getting access to unofficial transcripts so they can be uploaded.
- J. Koko – Do I have to send docs to Agata?
  - L. Geiger – Terra Dotta is no longer being used. We are determining new processes.
- D. DeWitt asked for a motion to approve language. C. Carayon motioned. M. Finch. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimously approved.

#### VIII. Tuition and Fees Website – M. Finch

- Broken down cost information is nice for undergraduates but grad info is not separated. Rates are in a PDF and combined with undergraduate information.
- A. Koehler will work to get that information updated.

#### IX. Metropolitan Article – M. Finch

- Nice article but no mention of graduate programs.
- C. Griffin – OGS met with Katie Curtin and discussed concerns about article. Katie recognized the issues and will try to get another article with the Metropolitan which will highlight graduate studies at SU. Part of a bigger issue at SU where graduate studies are not considered a priority. The external agency who created the prospectus for the Presidential search did a better job at conveying SU's overall makeup.

- C. Carayon – Appreciated the coverage that Allison Stancil received on her history walk design but she was not identified as a grad student. Also problem with library culture as grads are having issues getting materials.
- J. Koko – We needed to aggressively work towards changing culture.

X. Enrollment Action Team – M. Finch

- Had volunteered to serve until I discovered they were not focused on graduate initiatives.
  - A. Koehler – There were originally 8 subgroups including one for graduate students and one for international students. When he presented these to the Executive Board, they urged him to start small, focus on undergrad first and expand to grad students later.

XI. MPT/Marketing Efforts – D. Wagner

- Much has already been discussed but there was an MPT article that briefly mentioned some, not all of our graduate programs. Vast MPT watchers are under 10 or over 50. Not sure it helped reach our demographic. How does this get broadcast without program knowledge or approval?
- C. Griffin – Katie indicated there were 5 snippets of text available and it was mostly done for brand awareness. One was discussing online programs which is how graduate programs became involved.

XII. Dean's Remarks – C. Griffin

- Graduate programs continue to have sweeping concerns about the culture towards graduate education at SU.
- Branding letter should include everything discussed today. OGS will send additional concerns to Sue and Katie and see if they can attend a meeting.
  - D. DeWitt – Asked C. Carayon to make sure those items were included before sending.
- Grad Walk will be school-based. There will be no separate grad ceremony but they will be scheduled first for each session. This was in response to some faculty concerns about attending multiple ceremonies.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Submitted by Jessica Scott