

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 17, 2024 – ZOOM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Annette Barnes (DNP/MSN), Joshua Bolton (PUBCOM), Melissa Bugdal (At-Large Perdue School Rep), David Burns (PUBCOMM), Mark deSocio (GIS), Memo Diriker (Faculty Senate Liaison), Yvonne Downie-Hanley (MBA), Maida Finch (EDD), James Fox (EDLD), Elizabeth Geiger (OGS), Aston Gonzalez (HIST), Clifton Griffin (Dean of Graduate School), Amanda Hill (CHHS School Rep), Martin Hunter (Registrar), Eric Liebgold (BIO), Scott Mazzetti (HHPF), Ruth Malone (CURRMED), Stephen Oby (MSW), Jessica Scott (OGS), Christine Spillson (Fulton School Rep)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jennifer Bergner (MSME), Stephanie Bernhard (ENGL), Abigail Isaacson (GSC), Allen Koehler (AVP Enrollment Management), Erin Stutelberg (MAT), Heather Porter (Seidel Rep), Ignaciyas Soosaipillai (CADR)

GUESTS:

Ken Kundell (AVP, Chief Information Officer), Robin Hoffman (Associate Director, IT), Melissa Thomas (Manager, ID&D)

- I. Call to Order – 3:30pm.
- II. Minutes
 - September minutes were passed as submitted.
- III. Curriculum
 - HIST 600 – New Course - Career Professionalization
Introduces the Master of Arts in History Program, including important resources and aspects of being a successful graduate student, and prepares for successful post-graduate careers. Topics include cultivating respect and professionalism, grant writing, academic etiquette and misconduct, conferences, Ph.D. programs, public history careers, education careers, professional networking, and CV/resume preparation. Culminates with the production of a professional portfolio that can be used after graduation.
 - HIST 626 – New Course – Internship II
This internship course would give our students another option for gaining real-world experience during their graduate career that could better prepare them for life after graduation. Students may currently take HIST 625 - Internship but may only take the class once and the Registrar does not repeat course numbers with the same titles, so taking a second internship is not an option for History graduate students. HIST 626 offers another opportunity for students to acquire more professional experience (that is currently foreclosed) to help them acquire additional career skills and perhaps secure a job after graduation.
 - GCC recommends approval. GC unanimously approved.

IV. Replacing Zoom with Teams – K. Kundell, R. Hoffman, M. Thomas

- Zoom has a \$55K annual cost. Contract expires in November and will be renewed for next year. IT has compared features with Teams and is looking to see if it can be replaced with Teams which has no additional cost.
- IT has reached out to Melissa Thomas to see how this will affect work in MyClasses and is currently being tested in a few courses.
- There will be training for the transition. IT will have a year to plan for training unlike Zoom where everything happened quickly due to the pandemic.
- Can consider small usage of Zoom if Teams simply won't work for certain circumstances.
- Questions/Statements:
 - C. Griffin – There is a lot of learning fatigue on campus following WorkDay. Teams may work for SU but may not be good for our end-users including researchers and students. ○ D. Burns - Was this vetted?
 - ✦ M. Thomas - It was discussed by Library and Learning Resources Committee (LLRC)
 - M. Finch - Does anyone on LLRC teach online courses?
 - ✦ M. Thomas - No but testing is ready for anyone who wants to participate.
 - R. Malone – She and J. Fox tested Teams. There were lots of issues with video audio and there was video lag and sound quality issues with Power Point files.
 - M. Finch – We must be able to support distance learners and get their input.
 - C. Griffin – Do we have a sense of who is using Zoom?
 - ✦ R. Hoffman – There were 187 Zoom sessions today alone. There were 260 on Monday.
 - J. Fox – It's unfortunate how this news was delivered. LLRC is giving the impression that this decision has already been made. This seems like a business decision but there will be pedagogical issues,, especially for professors teaching remote and online courses.
 - S. Oby – Do non-SU people need to be in Teams to participate? ✦ M. Thomas – They can still participate.
- Next Steps: ○ R. Hoffman will create a survey to see what faculty, staff and students need. Will share questions with Grad Council for feedback.

V. Grad School Feedback – C. Griffin

- Grad School will develop a few small sub-committees to help determine next steps. C. Griffin will send out a notice to Grad Council to ask for participation.
 - Couple topics – assessment, current mission, strategic planning, enrollment management role
- Everyone should have received the comprehensive marketing summary. Goals is to get more people to the top of the funnel.
- M. Diriker offered assistance with marketing efforts.

VI. Dean's Remarks – C. Griffin

- Accelerated Programs - As programs consider accelerated options, please make sure you are aware of guidelines. J. Scott sent them out but can send out again.
- Financial - Do we have the most reasonable tuition model for online programs? Are we charging the right amount? Is there merit in require an admissions deposit?

VII. Other Remarks

- M. Finch – Can Provost send a rep if she cannot attend?
- M. Finch – Has requested a meeting with SU Libraries regarding parking and how they define distance learners (must be further than 50 miles away to get copying services).
- A. Barnes – The library is getting rid of resources and platforms which has affected nursing students.
- M. Bugdal – If there are equity issues, Zebadiah Hall should be consulted. Writing Center can assist students on/off campus but many of our resources don't cater to off-campus students.
- J. Scott – Binding company for manuscripts is no longer happening monthly. Will now be done three times a year. J. Scott is working to pick-up times coincide with submission of theses and dissertations.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Submitted by Jessica Scott