

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 19, 2024 – ZOOM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jennifer Bergner (MSME), Stephanie Bernhard (ENGL), Joshua Bolton (PUBCOM), Melissa Bugdal (At-Large Perdue School Rep), David Burns (PUBCOMM), Mark deSocio (GIS), Maida Finch (EDD), Aston Gonzalez (HIST), Clifton Griffin (Dean of Graduate School), Amanda Hill (CHHS School Rep), Martin Hunter (Registrar), Abigail Isaacson (GSC), Allen Koehler (AVP Enrollment Management), Eric Liebgold (BIO), Scott Mazzetti (HHPF), Ruth Malone (CURRMED), Heather Porter (Seidel Rep), Jessica Scott (OGS), Ignaciyas Soosaipillai (CADR), Christine Spillson (Fulton School Rep)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Annette Barnes (DNP/MSN), Memo Diriker (Faculty Senate Liaison), Yvonne Downie-Hanley (MBA), James Fox (EDLD), Elizabeth Geiger (OGS), Stephen Oby (MSW), Erin Stutelberg (MAT)

I. Introductions

- Will not be able to attend all meetings but wanted a chance to come to the first meeting.
- Very interested in hearing about graduate experience. Where is demand? What opportunities are available?

II. Minutes

- a. May minutes were passed as submitted. There were two abstentions.

III. Elections

- a. Vice Chair
 - o D. Burns volunteered to serve as Vice Chair. He was elected unanimously.

IV. Curriculum

- a. CADR 530 – Course Change – Mediation Theory and Practice Remove first-year pre-requisites
- b. CADR – Program Change – Change in Modality
The CADR program is requesting to move to a fully online program beginning with the Fall 25 application cycle.
- c. BS/MAT – New Program – Accelerated Masters
This accelerated master's program allows students to complete the traditional mathematics undergraduate degree in four years and then obtain a master's degree by completing one additional year of study. Graduate coursework begins during senior year of the undergraduate program. The master's degree leads to a license to teach secondary mathematics.
- d. GCC recommends approval. GC unanimously approved.

V. Graduate School Vision

- a. Now that the Grad School is approved, what are next steps?
 - J. Bergner – The Math Department is looking for transparency by duties within the department. Would like to know who's doing what within the Grad School.
 - M. Bugdal – Many challenges with WorkDay. Who has access? How does Grad School become a clearinghouse for all programs?
 - A. Hill – We should explore how other graduate schools operate
 - ✦ C. Griffin – Looked at models through CGS. We're already doing a lot of the centralized efforts such as admissions, graduate assistants, marketing. Will be involved in a peer review at College of Charleston.
 - H. Porter – This is an opportunity to expand programs and support services offered
 - M. deSocio – What is marketing budget?
 - ✦ C. Griffin – There used to be dedicated funds per program. Now marketing ifunds are used more centralized for all grad programs. If a program needs additional funding, please contact our office.
 - E. Liebgold – GA stipends need to be addressed. They have remained the same while fees keep increasing.
 - C. Griffin – This is the time to redefine mission and vision. Develop a strategic plan for Graduate School. Grad Council should consider what they want/need from Graduate School and get some action-oriented ideas.

VI. Enrollment

- a. We're being tasked with growing grad enrollment to over 1000 students.
- b. Overall, we declined (749 last year to 736 this year).
- c. Questions to consider:
 - Are marketing efforts effective?
 - Where did we lose folks? Why didn't prospects move forward?
 - What is our mission?
 - ✦ Eastern Shore? – Program Dependent
 - ✦ How many grads were SU undergrads? – Program Dependent
- d. Please take goals seriously and reach out to students in a timely manner.
- e. Make sure you're communicating with active students not registered, provided by Jessica.

VII. Best Admission Practices – Maida Finch

- Students tend to accept first grad program that accepts them. Programs are feeling pressure to admit people quickly but run the risk of missing quality students.
 - C. Griffin – No program should feel they need to reduce standards for enrollment numbers.
 - A. Koehler – Quickly replying to inquiries also increases student responses.
 - M. Bugdal – English realized their later deadline was affecting outcomes. Established a priority deadline.
 - D. Burns – Diversified responses to students by using videos, faculty profiles and having COMM faculty calling applicants.

VIII. Boot Camp

- Survey was sent out to get students feedback on needs. ○ Students prefer small sessions with more diversified offerings.
 - C. Griffin shared survey responses with GSC.
- As events are held, it would be helpful to build repository of aids.

IX. Grad Fees

- Grad fees are due prior to GA's getting paid. This is huge problem.
- Fees are determined by Business and Finance and Grad School doesn't have any flexibility.

X. GSC Remarks

- There is a full executive board in place.
- October 2nd – Grad Nights in the Box for FH game.
- Partnering with SGA to provide professional development opportunities. Will look for ways to engage satellite and online students.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m. Submitted
by Jessica Scott