

# Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 21, 2024 - ZOOM

## **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Annette Barnes (DNP/MSN), Jennifer Bergner (MSME), Melissa Bugdal (At-Large Perdue School Rep), David Burns (PUBCOMM), 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), Scott Mazzetti (HHPF), Stephen Oby (MSW), Heather Porter (Seidel Rep), Jessica Scott (OGS), Ignaciyas Soosaipillai (CADR), Christine Spillson (At-Large Henson School Rep)

## **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Stephanie Bernhard (ENGL), Joshua Bolton (Fulton School Rep), Mark deSocio (GIS), Martin Hunter (Registrar), Abigail Isaacson (GSC), Allen Koehler (AVP Enrollment Management), Eric Liebgold (BIO), Ruth Malone (CURRMED), Erin Stutelberg (MAT)

## **GUESTS:**

Cassidy Zeller (Counseling Center)

- I. Call to Order – 3:32pm.
- II. Minutes
  - October minutes were approved and passed as submitted.
- III. Good News
  - A. Gonzalez – The History Accelerated Program is moving along in the approval process. Should go into effect Fall 25.
  - H. Porter – Ed.D. has 3 successful defenses this week and 2 more scheduled.
  - A. Barnes – The FNP track has been approved by MHEC and USM. Just waiting for board to approve it.
  - D. Burns – PUBCOMM is moving through approval process.
  - C. Spillson – Creative Writing track will be going live in Fall 25.
- IV. Curriculum
  - Accelerated B.A. to M.A. Public Communication - The Department of Communication proposes an Accelerated Master's Program in order to give our students the opportunity to take advantage of the relationship between our undergraduate and postgraduate programs and achieve an M.A. in a shorter period of time. We anticipate that this will appeal to the type of student who will have made good progress through the B.A. and be in a good position to take advantage of the opportunities available through our graduate program. This plan would also give students a reduction in total tuition costs compared to obtaining separate BA and MA degrees and students would be guaranteed a seat in the graduate program as long as they maintain requirements for admission during undergraduate

coursework. Further, to ensure student success, all undergraduates who declare the accelerated program will be advised by the Graduate Director for the remainder of their time as SU.

- Program will include following Specializations/Tracks:
  - Community & Professional Communication Specialization - Athletic Communication Track
  - Community & Professional Communication Specialization - Corporate Communication Track
  - Community & Professional Communication Specialization - Health Communication Track
  - Community & Professional Communication Specialization -Political Communication Track
  - Media Production Communication Specialization -Athletic Communication Track
  - Media Production Communication Specialization - Corporate Communication Track
  - Media Production Communication Specialization - Health Communication Track
  - Media Production Communication Specialization - Political Communication Track
  - Media Studies Communication Specialization - Athletic Communication Track
  - Media Studies Communication Specialization - Corporate Communication Track
  - Media Studies Communication Specialization - Health Communication Track
  - Media Studies Communication Specialization - Political Communication Track
  - Multimedia Journalism Communication Specialization - Athletic Communication Track
  - Multimedia Journalism Communication Specialization - Corporate Communication Track
  - Multimedia Journalism Communication Specialization - Health Communication Track
  - Multimedia Journalism Communication Specialization - Political Communication Track
  - Public Relations and Strategic Development - Athletic Communication Track
  - Public Relations and Strategic Development - Corporate Communication Track
  - Public Relations and Strategic Development - Health Communication Track
  - Public Relations and Strategic Development - Political Communication Track
  
- GCC recommends approval. GC unanimously approved.

#### V. Counseling Center – Cassidy Zeller

- Provided an overview of resources for all students, including grads.
  - Guide to Mental Health Resources Guide is in the Commons area of MyClasses
  - A Panapto video is available for faculty to show to classes ○ All resources are free and confidential. ○ Brief individual sessions are available. Can be scheduled or walk-in.
  - TimelyCare is available after hours and be accessed through MyClasses.
    - ✦ It is free and available 24/7. All confidential sessions are with licensed clinicians. You may schedule 12 each academic year.
  - Outreach events such as support animals visiting campus
- Questions/Statements:
  - A. Hill – Do you offer virtual appointments?
    - ✦ On a limited basis due to staffing. We prefer they access TimelyCare but can do a virtual appointment if absolutely necessary.
  - M. Bugdal – Do students have to be in Maryland?
    - ✦ Timely Care will find a counselor for students based on where they are located.

## VI. Follow-up on Library Issues

- C. Griffin reached out to Martha with concerns. Will reach out again after Thanksgiving break.
- J. Scott updated binding processes and dates for thesis and dissertation manuscripts.

## VII. Subcommittees

- Clifton thanked those who offered to participate. M. Diriker has volunteered his expertise in developing a SWOT analysis.
- Strategic Planning Group will include H. Porter, M. Finch, M. Bugdal, D. Burns, M. Diriker, C. Spillson, Y. Downie-Hanley, C. Griffin, J. Scott and E. Geiger
- Would also like to create a subcommittee to review all aspects of the graduate student experience.

## VIII. Zoom/Teams Survey

- Make sure you provide feedback on R. Hoffman's survey suggestion.
- C. Griffin will contact R. Hoffman and make sure Grad Council's comments are considered

## IX. Grad Commencement

- Small group met with Michelle Stokes regarding location for Grad Commencement.
- Holloway Auditorium has limited seating. Would require several separate ceremonies and campus construction would make parking situations challenging.
- Maggs can accommodate 2300. Would mean more tickets.
- Working with a company who can provide draping to make it more presentable.

## X. Dean's Remarks

- L. Geiger will schedule marketing meetings with each program.
- We are expanding our marketing contract with Orange 142 and starting new contracts with Study College and Study International
- J. Scott is taking lead in accelerated 4+1 programs in terms of presence
- J. Scott will work on report repository where data can be found on the Grad School website.

## XI. Other Remarks

- J. Fox – Who should we speak to about switching modalities?
  - C. Griffin – Pedagogical questions should be sent to Melissa Thomas. Procedural questions should be sent to J. Scott and J. Ellis

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