GRADUATE COUNCIL
Faculty Senate
MINUTES
Thursday, December 16, 2021, 2:30 PM
Oak/Redbud Room (2nd Floor in the Morris University Center)

PRESENT:  Barbara McCracken, Chair, Kay Gaehle, Jennifer Zuercher, Heather Johnson, Michael Hair, Christienne Hinz, Soondo Kweon, Walter Siganga, Michael Shaw, David Cluph, Wai Cheah, Molly Lambert, Madeline Schurman, Jerry Weinberg, Scott Belobrajdic, Mary Weishaar, Therese Dickman, Susan Morgan, Jill Smucker, Kim Lizotte

ABSENT:  None

EXCUSED:  Jayme Swanke

The meeting was called to order at 2:45 p.m. by Barb McCracken, Chair

I. Announcements

a. Course Review Committee (CRC) Report – On Sharepoint
b. Graduate Committee on Assessment (CRC) Report – On Sharepoint
c. Enrollment Management Report
   • Scott Belobrajdic emailed the enrollment report out prior to the meeting. Everything is looking great for Spring 2022. They are working with programs to prepare for the large influx of international students and already have activity for international students that would like to start in the Summer and Fall semester.
d. Student Affairs Announcements
   • None.
e. International Affairs Announcements
   • There are two large groups of international students coming to campus next week to live in University Housing. There will be a staff member on duty during the break. Mary Weishaar requested that the committee remind their program directors to register international students as soon as possible.
f. Graduate School Announcements
   • Donnell Smith, a Grants & Contracts Associate in Post-Award, will be leaving the Graduate School. Kim Lizotte, Office Support Specialist, will also be leaving the Graduate School.
g. Other Announcements
   • None.

II. Approval of Minutes of November 18, 2021

   • The Minutes were approved with no changes.

III. Public Comments

   • None.
IV. Report of the Programs Committee

a) 91A: Mass Communications – Digital Media Literacy
   - The department would like to change the program name to Digital Media Literacy from Media Literacy and reduce the credit hours from 18 (9 core, 9 elective) to 9 credits (6 core, 3 elective). They would also like to modify the catalog description regarding goals, target students, and skills emphasized. The changes will align the PBC with changes in the media field and the new Illinois Media Literacy Bill. These changes have the potential to increase enrollment as new groups of students may be attracted to the PBC to update their skills. The reduction of credit hours aligns with similar programs and allows students to complete the PBC in a Summer semester.

b) 91A: Diversity and Equity in Education (MSED: Master of Science in Education)
   - The program would like to add EPFR 523 (Equity and Access in Education) to the required foundational courses and move EPFR 515 (Issues in Learning Theory) from the required foundational courses to education focus electives. The department would like to make this change because EPFR 525 focuses on major equity and access issues in PK-12 education, which is foundational to the program, while EPFR 515 better aligns with elective (vs. core) goals of the program.

c) 91A: Computer Management & Information Systems (Master of Science)
   - The department would like to change the program name to Management Information Systems. They would also like to reduce the credit hours from 31 to 30, by dropping the CMIS 589 Exit Exam and replacing it with CMIS 580 Capstone and reclassifying CMIS 528 (Strat. Mgt.) and CMIS 557 (Enterprise Sys.) as electives, while adding CMIS 527 (Security & Analytics) as an elective and MBA 521 (Quant. Analysis) to the core courses. They would like to replace specific “program foundation” courses with Blackboard foundational modules and require ENG 491 for applicants struggling with English. The name change of the program was suggested by Academic Partners (AP), for increased marketability of a fully online program option. The changes will streamline and clarify course offerings. The updated course offerings will keep pace with industry/field changes. “Foundational” changes will clarify and simplify requirements for applicants with non-MIS backgrounds. Streamlined and clarified curriculum should also increase retention, while structural changes should allow for scalability, fully online option to be explored through AP. The Programs Committee approved the 91A contingent upon a letter of collation being added to the form for the English department regarding the ENG 491 requirement, and that letter of collation has since been provided by the English department.

   ➢ Michael Hair brought the above forward for Graduate Council approval. Michael Hair moved for approval of the items. The items were approved with no opposition.

V. Report of the Educational and Research Policies (ERP) Committee

a) GR2122-07 – RCR Training and IDP Policy
• Regular review of policy. Added clarification into the policy regarding what IDP stands for (individual development plan).

b) GR2122-08 – Plagiarism – 116
• Regular review of policy. The policy was reviewed by the Provost’s Office. ERP noticed a few typos that were corrected. The policy states that it is to be published in the Alestle at least once during the beginning of each fall term. There was concern that this is not being done, therefore the committee approved the policy with a notation for clarification from the Provost Office that the policy is being published in the Alestle at least once during the beginning of each Fall term.

c) GR2122-09 – Approval to Teach Courses Offered for Graduate Credit – 1C10
• Regular review of policy. Minor edits were made for clarification.

➢ Jen Zuercher brought the above forward for Graduate Council approval. Jen Zuercher moved for approval of the items. The items were approved with no opposition.

VI. Graduate School Dean Evaluation Process
• The GC needs to form a subcommittee to begin the process of putting together the Dean’s annual evaluation. Mike Shaw volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

VII. Continuing Business
• Nominate member for Vice Chancellor for University Advancement search committee
  - The GC was asked to nominate a faculty member for the above-mentioned search committee. The faculty member needs to be a member of the Graduate Faculty but does not necessarily have to be a member of Graduate Council. Barb McCracken asked the GC members to think of faculty members that may be interested in serving.

VIII. New Business
• None.

IX. Adjournment
• Mike Shaw motioned to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.