GRADUATE COUNCIL  
Faculty Senate  
MINUTES  
Thursday, November 18, 2021, 2:30 PM  
Lovejoy Library 3rd Floor Conference Room (LB 3021)  

PRESENT: Barbara McCracken, Chair, Kay Gaehle, Jennifer Zuercher, Michael Hair, Soondo Kweon, Walter Siganga, Michael Shaw, David Cluphf, Wai Cheah, Jayme Swanke, Jerry Weinberg, Scott Belobrajdic, Mary Weishaar, Susan Morgan, Jill Smucker, Kim Lizotte  

ABSENT: Molly Lambert, Madeline Schurman  

EXCUSED: Heather Johnson  

The meeting was called to order at 2:31 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. Over 4,000 student applications have been processed for the Spring term, compared to above 800 around this time last year. They are expecting about 250 new international students and will work to make sure to use the extra revenue to support those extra students.  

d. Student Affairs Announcements  

• None.  

e. International Affairs Announcements  

• There are 90 new students that have their visas that intend to come to SIUE. There are currently more international students than there ever has been before. Mary Weishaar believes that the new travel rules play a part in this. Students need to be vaccinated to fly to the U.S., but not all countries have access to the vaccine. International Affairs is monitoring this situation. The Social Security office is still not open, but they did open one day for international students.  

e. Student Affairs Announcements  

• The University’s Quality Initiative (QI), required by HLC accreditation, focuses on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. Susan Morgan has been working with Jim Monahan in Graduate & International Admissions to propose providing resources to graduate programs regarding best practices in holistic admissions and to provide funds to graduate programs to support the development of pipeline partnerships with institutions serving a high percentage of minority undergraduate students. Jill Smucker is working with Geoff Edwards, the Director of Student Retention & Success, to develop a proposal that would add an additional Success Coach and add a variety of avenues that support and enhance mentoring for graduate students. There will be online modules launching for faculty in Spring 22 to provide resources on mentoring and an email
series for graduate students called “Grad Tips” is launching in January 2022. Jill Smucker is also working with the Division of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion to ensure that graduate students are integrated into the proposals originating from their offices related to building new mentoring programs for black students at a campus level.

g. Other Announcements
  • None.

II. Approval of Minutes of October 21, 2021
  • The Minutes were approved with no changes.

III. Public Comments
  • None.

IV. Report of the Programs Committee

a) 91A: Art Therapy Counseling
  • The department would like to drop the GRE from the program’s admission requirements, addressing bias and barriers to admissions. They would also like replace ART 553/554 with ART 490/576 for required coursework, because ART 490 focuses on community development and ART 576 deals with counseling trauma, complying with state licensure issues and trends in mental health education. They would also like to change the graduation requirements to specify that a research project and an oral exam must be completed. These requirement changes will clean up language and formatting.

b) 92B: Special Education
  • The department is requesting to terminate the MSED program in Special Education. There is a nationwide decline in graduate enrollment in teacher education programs. Special Education still exists as a specialization within MSED Curriculum & Instruction, and the Special Education endorsement (LBS 1) will still be offered.

c) 91A: Environmental Sciences
  • The department is requesting to change the ENSC 550 requirement to ENSC 550 or 450 for the programs Environmental Biology, Environmental Technology & Assessment, and Environmental Policy and Public Administration tracks. The department would also like to change the ENSC 531 requirement to ENSC 531 or 431 and ENSC 535 to ENSC 535 or 435 for Environmental Chemistry & Toxicology track. ENSC 505 has increased from 1 to 2 credit hours. This will change the program core from 8-9 hours to 9-10 hours for all five tracks. These changes will allow for 400-level courses to be offered to both undergraduate and graduate students to increase course enrollment and lower teaching costs.

d) 91A: Speech Language Pathology
  • The department would like to remove the GRE from admission requirements. The GRE creates barriers, skews applicant pools, and decreases diversity. Based on recent historical data, the GRE appears to add no additional value to
the application review process. Many peer intuitions have also removed the GRE from admissions requirements.

e) 92B: Creative Writing
- The department is requesting to terminate the MFA program in Creative Writing. Enrollment and applications to the program have fallen short of expectations and the program has been unable to admit a poetry cohort since inception. The demand for an MFA in Creative Writing has declined nationally, and limited funding has rendered SIUE's MFA in Creative Writing uncompetitive in terms of student financial packages. Employment opportunities for graduates are scarce and salaries are low, causing students to understandably be unwilling to take on significant debt to earn an MFA.

f) 91A: Teaching English as a Second Language
- The department would like to add ENG 545 (TESL Practicum) and ENG 595 (Professional Development Seminar) to the list of electives. There is currently no “applied” component to the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate, unlike the MA. ENG 545/595 both require experience in ESL classrooms.

g) 91A: Educational Leadership
i. Superintendent
ii. General School Leadership
- The department would like to revise the retention policy, such that students who leave the program long enough to become “inactive” will need to reapply for admissions. If qualified for admissions, the returning student will be placed on a waiting list until space is available, so that qualified new applicants will receive priority over returning students. Due to the strict space and course-sequencing requirements within the program, returning students take up an entire “spot” during the 2-year program, even though they only need to take some of the courses. Students who leave the program also have a higher rate of recidivism vs. the general population. Discretion is allowed for certain circumstances, such as serious illness, bereavement, etc., which would qualify a returning student’s application to be prioritized over a new student. The new retention policy will be emphasized upon admission to the program. This policy has been vetted by the Graduate School, Provost’s Office, Dean’s Office, and Admissions.

h) Initial Review: Criminal Justice
- Enrollment to the program increased from 22 in 2018 to 45 in 2020. Kevin Cannon stated that when they jumped to 45 students, it was too much, and the department needed to add extra classes. The program has a strong online market, drawing primarily from within 100 miles of the University. The curriculum and exit process allows existing CJ professionals to tailor the program to their career goals. A survey showed that 100% of current students plan to work in CJ studies and 67% of graduates are currently employed in the CJ field. All courses that were initially planned have been offered each semester; however, there are limited graduate faculty to meet the demands of the large student cohort and required courses reach capacity early in registration. To alleviate this issue, PAPA courses were added as electives and the comprehensive exit exam was created to expedite graduation. Additionally, one tenure track faculty was hired for graduate courses and two instructors were hired to teach displaced undergraduate courses. The department may consider curriculum changes in electives in the future. Since the program began, they have reduced the credit hours from 36 to 30 and have added the third exit option of the comprehensive exam.
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) GR2122-05 – Policy on Biohazardous Material Use – 1M3
   • Regular review of policy. The policy was reviewed by IBC and Compliance Specialists. No changes were recommended.

b) GR2122-06 – Cost Sharing on Sponsored Projects – 1M8
   • Regular review of policy. The policy was updated to align with CFR Part 200 Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards.

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. Continuing Business

• None.

VII. New Business

• None.

VIII. Adjournment

• The meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.