GRADUATE COUNCIL
Faculty Senate
MINUTES
Thursday, September 16, 2021, 2:30 PM
Lovejoy Library 3rd Floor Conference Room (LB 3021)

PRESENT: Barbara McCracken, Chair, Kay Gaehle, Jennifer Zuercher, Michael Hair, Christienne Hinz, Soondo Kweon, Walter Siganga, Michael Shaw, Wai Cheah, Jayme Swanke, Molly Lambert, Jerry Weinberg, Scott Belobrajdic, Mary Weishaar, Jeffery Waple, Therese Dickman, Susan Morgan, Kim Lizotte, Denise Cobb

ABSENT: Heather Johnson

EXCUSED: None

The meeting was called to order at 2:31 p.m. by Barb McCracken, Chair

I. Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

- Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Denise Cobb attended the Graduate Council meeting to discuss several topics.
- The Board of Trustees passed a 2% raise for all non-represented faculty and staff, which will be retroactive to July 1, 2021.
- The working groups that came out of the R2DP Carnegie Committee were recently charged. They were formed to help determine how SIUE can build on the recommendations given by the Committee. There are three ad hoc working groups: Centers of Research Excellence, Professional Doctorate Graduate Programs, and Diversity and Equity in Research and Creative Activities. A fourth, System-Level, Working Group was charged to recommend ways the Co-op PhD programs can be better supported and strengthened.
- The next question discussed was how graduate education and research & creative activities are addressed in SIUE’s quality initiative and the System’s strategic plan. The University is required to engage in a quality improvement project by the higher learning commission. SIUE’s project focusing on retention and student success, particularly of black students, has been approved. The System Strategic Plan is rooted in enhanced system collaboration.
- The Provost discussed expansion of SIUE’s relationship with Academic Partnerships (AP), the outside company used for marketing our programs, specifically the MBA. AP makes recommendations to help with marketing the programs, as SIUE cannot compete with the money other universities use to market their online MBA. AP is given half of the revenue, so it does not make sense to use them for every program. It may be important to learn from AP and possibly take part of the revenue to do the marketing work ourselves.
- Vision of Graduate Studies – Graduate students help support SIUE’s teacher-scholar mission. We need to think carefully about where we want to grow our graduate education. Graduate programs are critical in recruiting and retaining both students and faculty so having strong graduate programs is important.
• Holistic Admissions – Undergraduate admissions has now moved to test optional and scholarship strategy is now test optional. The Provost believes this is very advantageous to the students. Before, ACT scores were used to determine what areas students may need assistance in. Chris Leopold has been working on looking at the course’s students have a difficult time with in high school to help identify the services and support the students need to be successful. We need to consider where there are opportunities to use holistic admissions at the graduate level.
• The School of Nursing Dean search is underway. They are using an outside firm for the Dean search, as multiple regional nursing dean searches are underway. The School of Dental Medicine Dean search is also underway.

II. 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 out the official fall census prior to the meeting. SIUE has record international student enrollment and the international pipeline is already full for the Spring 2022 semester. Enrollment has increased overall, marking the highest graduate student enrollment in 44 years.
d. Student Affairs Announcements
   • The semester just started and the students are already actively engaged in activities throughout campus. On November 19th, Busey Bank is closing their branch at SIUE. The search for a new banking partner is underway. There have already been eight inquiries from interested banks. SIUE is also experiencing staffing challenges in dining services and struggling to find employees. There are over 23 Civil Service positions currently open. At this time, SIUE is unable to open any more dining services due to the lack of employees. They are facing supply chain issues as well and having difficulty getting vending machines stocked.
e. International Affairs Announcements
   • International students are having difficulty getting their Social Security Numbers. There are currently 85 students waiting in the queue to get their SSN. There has been a large increase in international students and there have been no registration issues.
f. Graduate School Announcements
   • Katie Eilers, the new Director of Award Management in the Graduate School, will be starting on September 20th. The Graduate School Open House events will be virtually in mid-October. The dates and times can be found on the admissions website. The GPD meetings are September 22 & 23.
g. Other Announcements
   • None.

III. Approval of Minutes of May 6, 2021

   • The Minutes were approved with no changes.

IV. Public Comments
V. Report of the Programs Committee

a) Form 91A: Curriculum and Instruction
   - The department would like to establish two specializations, Curriculum and Instruction and Special Education. Also requested to drop EPFR 501 and shift around their research methods requirement courses, along with increasing the electives from 15 to 18 hours. These changes were made due to enrollment being low in Special Education and Literacy degree programs and due to Illinois state requirements for subsequent endorsements changing. There were some minor discrepancies with course numbers that the Programs Committee requested be corrected in Curricunet. Those discrepancies have since been corrected.

b) Form 91A: Post-Baccalaureate Certificates, Concurrent Programs, and PBHE 599 Course Requirement, MPH: Master of Public Health
   - The request was to create a Public Health Global Health Post-Baccalaureate Certificate, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Infectious Disease Outbreaks and Surveillance Post-Baccalaureate Certificate, and concurrent MPH/PharmD and MPH/MBA programs. The department believes the certificates will strengthen the diversity and cultural competency of the workforce, along with addressing national health security needs. The concurrent programs with help to increase marketability for the students, while also increasing enrollment and retention. The department would also like to change the PBHE 599 A/B course requirements from "earn a grade of B or higher" to "complete with a Satisfactory grade" to address the traditional grading system for other core courses versus the S/U grading system for this course.

c) Form 91A: Social Work
   - The department would like to change several admissions requirements, including those with lower than 3.0 GPA addressing such in their Statement of Purpose, requiring those that cannot find a recommendation letter to contact the MSW admissions committee and addressing this as well in their Statement of Purpose, and removing the requirements of a B or higher in undergraduate social work courses, along with the requirement for applications to have previously passed a statistics course. The changes will allow for a broader pool of applications. They would also like the change the graduation requirements to allow a minimum grade of C in the Capstone course. This will align the course with existing curriculum requirements. The Programs Committee had concerns about the wording of the recommendation letter requirements and asked the department to add clarifying language. The committee approved the 91A pending the revisions, which have since been made.

➤ 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.

VI. Report of the Educational and Research Policies (ERP) Committee
a) GR2122-01 – Policy for Center Review – 5F6
   • Regular review of policy. The policy was updated to reflect practice within SIUE and to be consistent throughout the SIU System. On item number IV. Committee Membership, the committee stated that “three” needs to be changed to “two” in the sentence “The Chancellor appoints the latter “two” members.” The committee also stated that clarification should be added regarding consistency in language for “Centers & Institutes.” These changes were made.

b) GR2122-02 – Retention on Undergraduate Courses in Catalogs – 1N1
   • Request by the Registrar to update the policy. Under item V. the committee stated that “and/or Graduate Council” be added to vote to retain and suggested that the Curriculum Council also review this policy. This change was made.

   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.

VII. Election of Chair-Elect
   • Michael Shaw was nominated to serve as Chair-Elect for the current FY and Chair for FY22.
   • Michael Shaw was elected by unanimous vote.

VIII. Open Meetings Act Representative
   • Christienne Hinz volunteered to be the Open Meetings Act representative this fiscal year.

IX. Continuing Business
   • None.

X. New Business
   • None.

XI. Adjournment
   • Wai Cheah motioned to adjourn the meeting, Michael Shaw seconded. The meeting adjourned at 3:39 p.m.