

**GRADUATE COUNCIL**

Faculty Senate

MINUTES

Thursday, March 21, 2024, 2:30 PM

Graduate School Conference Room, RH 2215

PRESENT: Michael Hair (Chair), Soondo Kweon, Jerry Weinberg, Therese Dickman, Liz Cali, Jill Smucker, Jim Monahan, Wai Cheah, Beidi Qiang, Gloria Sweida, David Cluphf, Michael Shaw, Bhargav Patel, Bernadette Sobczak, Cinnamon VanPutte, Eric Wrobbel, Cheryl Borowiak

ABSENT: Andrea Keller, Rony Die

EXCUSED: Carole Frick

GUESTS:

The meeting was called to order at 2:32 p.m. by Michael Hair, Chair.

I. Announcements

- A. Course Review Committee (CRC) Report – On SharePoint
- B. Graduate Committee on Assessment (GCOA) Report – On SharePoint
- C. Enrollment Management Report
  - i. Jim Monahan shared that their application numbers continue to be up, with a 36% increase in domestic applications and a 14% increase in international applications over last year. The number of students admitted is also up from last year. The undergraduate international applications are up 128% from last year. Due to the increases in application volume, the processing time is a bit longer, with an average of 3-4 weeks to process an application. The application deadline for all Business & STEM programs will be April 1<sup>st</sup> for the fall semester.
  - ii. Michael Hair asked if there are ongoing issues with international students applying for their Social Security cards. Cheryl Borowiak responded that new procedures are in development to address the challenges in students being able to apply for their SSN cards as they now must all travel to the Alton location to apply. The ISSS office is hoping to implement new tracking procedures to ensure students have completed their application in a timely manner.
- D. Student Affairs Announcements – None
- E. International Affairs Announcements
  - i. Cheryl Borowiak shared that there are close to 150 international students graduating this spring. They will be hosting the international student affinity graduation celebration in the afternoon on April 12<sup>th</sup> in the MUC Legacy Room.

Also, the ISSS office is taking around 50 students to a soccer game in St. Louis this Saturday.

F. Graduate School Announcements

- i. Jerry Weinberg announced that the federally and state mandated audit of the Office of Research & Projects came back completely clean this year and thanked the ORP staff for their efforts.
- ii. Jill Smucker shared that new guidance for graduate programs who are seeking to add an accelerated/early entry option, new certificate, or new joint degree program now exists online on the Grad School's "[Program & Curriculum Management](#)" website for faculty. The link with the new guidance was sent via email to the graduate faculty listserv earlier this week. She also added that the Graduate School team is sponsoring the Mini-Pantry in the MUC in the month of April, and anyone who might like to donate food items to that effort can bring donations by her office.
- iii. Jerry Weinberg shared that the changes to the Graduate Council operating papers have been approved.

G. Other Announcements

- i. Michael Shaw shared that the Chemistry Department is hosting the Probst Lecture on Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the MUC Ballroom. The student research symposium will precede the Lecture at 2:30pm in the Ballroom.
- ii. Therese Dickman shared that Lovejoy Library recently participated in hosting events that welcomed U.S. Poet Laureate Ada Limón and Viola Ford Fletcher, oldest survivor of the Tulsa Race Massacre, to campus. The Library will also be hosting an event on April 12<sup>th</sup> to honor the Louis H. Sullivan legacy.

II. Approval of Minutes of February 15, 2024

The minutes were approved with no changes.

III. Public Comments – None

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

- A. ERP did not meet due to a lack of quorum in attendance at their March meeting.

V. Report of the Programs Committee

- A. Sociology 91C: Moratorium Request
- B. English 92Bs: Termination of PBC in TESL and MA Specialization in TESL
- C. Marketing Research Abbreviated Program Review
- D. Management Information Systems Abbreviated Program Review

Dave Cluphf reviewed the Programs Committee report items. Programs Committee approved the 91C, Moratorium Request, for the MA in Sociology, and the 92Bs from

English to terminate the PBC and MA specialization in Teaching English as a Second Language.

Regarding the Marketing Research Abbreviated Program Review, the committee had agreed that the program is in good standing and that the enrollment is sustainable at the present level.

For the Management Information Systems Abbreviated Program Review, the committee had agreed that the program is in good standing and that the enrollment is sustainable at the present level.

The Council accepted the Programs Committee report with no changes or opposition.

VI. Graduate Course Review Committee Course Retention Recommendations

- A. Michael Hair reviewed the recommendations from the Course Review Committee about the retention of ACS 510, ACS 511, ACS 411, STAT 535, MATH 533, MATH 534, and ENG 584. The details of the Course Review Committee's recommendations are available on SharePoint.

There is one typo in the retention recommendations regarding ENG 584 being listed as ENG 594, which Jill Smucker will correct.

The Council accepted the Course Review Committee Course Retention Recommendations with no changes or opposition.

VII. Continuing Business- APR/Dean of the Graduate School Search Update

- A. Cinnamon VanPutte gave the Council an update on the search process. The rubric for evaluating applicants and the Zoom interview questions have been finalized. The committee's next task is to begin reviewing applications as they arrive.

VIII. New Business

- A. There was a call for nominations for Programs Committee Chair for the 2024-2025 year. Gloria Sweida was nominated and accepted. Eric Wrobbel motioned to close the nominations, and Wei Cheah seconded. The motion was approved with no opposition. A vote was taken to elect Gloria Sweida as the PC Chair, and the vote was approved unanimously.
- B. There was a call for nominations for the Educational & Research Policies Chair for the 2024-2025 year. No nominations have been made, so the vote is tabled for the April meeting.
- C. Michael Shaw mentioned that the UPBC will be meeting on April 5<sup>th</sup>, and that Jonathan Pettibone will be serving as the new Chair. Michael is happy to continue serving as the Graduate Council representative on UPBC as long as he is able.

- D. Michael Hair announced that SIU President Dan Mahoney will be visiting the Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup>. The meeting is public, but if anyone would like for Mike to relay any messages, they may reach out to him directly.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:00p.m.