GRADUATE COUNCIL
Faculty Senate
MINUTES
Thursday, September 15, 2022, 2:30 PM
Lovejoy Library 3rd Floor Conference Room

PRESENT: Michael Shaw (Chair), Wai Cheah, Heather Johnson, Michael Hair, Soondo Kweon, Jennifer Zuercher, David Cluphif, Bernadette Sobczak, Bhargav Patel, Cinnamon VanPutte, Jayme Swanke, Jerry Weinberg, Therese Dickman, Susan Morgan, Jill Smucker, Jim Monahan, Mary Weishaar

ABSENT: Olufunke Mercy Ayegbidun, Jeffrey Waple

EXCUSED: Christienne Hinz, Scott Belobrajdic

GUESTS: Denise Cobb

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

I. Provost Denise Cobb Q&A
   • Status of Teaching Assistant Union?
     • Challenge of student turnover has created lack of momentum in TA organization and negotiations. TA Union could potentially request to bargain at any time.
   • Prioritize cost of living increase for Graduate Assistants?
     • Outside of TA question, we have a responsibility to support international students, particularly those economically vulnerable. For GAs, we need to ensure salaries are adjusted with time and we need to be thinking about the issue. The tuition waiver that is granted with GA positions leads to questions as well as legal issues that need clarification.
   • Strategic Position Alignment (SPA) Process: Did academic positions involving instruction receive priority in the process?
     • SPA process was newly implemented in the summer, and timing before fall semester created unique challenges. There are different committees that review requests for different constituency groups. Approval process of TAs/RAs and other instructional staff goes through Dean’s Council for approval. Provost Cobb wanted to ensure that positions that had been promised to individual students were honored, and those positions did not require SPA approval. Deans submitted lecturer requests via memos to allow approvals outside of the SPA process to support instructional needs.
     • Spring GA positions that were approved or allowed for fall will not need approval to be continued in the spring semester. The Provost is working on a draft of a planning document that can be submitted in mid-spring by Deans for the 2023-2024 academic year to improve the process.
   • Will there be adjustments to the summer schedule based on the budgetary deficit?
     • Changes are necessary to address structural budgetary deficit, and Provost asked many stakeholders to look critically at summer schedule and overall program offerings to provide instructional cost savings while still sufficiently addressing student needs.
   • Is question about change to R2 status returning for discussion?
     • No reason to believe it will resurface in the immediate future as it is not central to the Strategic Plan.
   • Have you considered directly speaking to other constituency groups on campus to provide similar explanations?
• Provost Cobb has visited with some college/school groups and recognizes that open and consistent communication is challenging. She acknowledges that there is a need for more direct conversations to provide clarity and an opportunity for people to ask questions, and she has asked the Deans to arrange times to do so.
• Concerns about inherent conflicts in shrinking scholarships/reducing equity gaps and growing enrollment/decrease in high school graduates.
• Provost Cobb acknowledges that some of the enrollment/retention goals may feel out of reach but believes there are strategic pathways in how we award scholarships and retain students to move towards these aspirational goals.

II. Announcements

a. Course Review Committee (CRC) Report – On Sharepoint
b. Graduate Committee on Assessment (CGOA) Report – N/A
c. Enrollment Management Report
   • Jim Monahan reported graduate enrollment is up 7% from last year.
d. Student Affairs Announcements
   • None.
e. International Affairs Announcements
   • Mary Weishaar reported that the majority of the new large cohort of international students are graduate students. Their office is exploring the reasons and patterns behind why international students transfer out of the University.
f. Graduate School Announcements
   • Jerry Weinberg shared the Graduate School is currently down two positions. The Post-Award position is currently undergoing a search, and the Pre-Award position is going through the SPA approval process.
g. Other Announcements
   • None.

III. Approval of Minutes of May 5, 2022
   • The minutes were approved with no changes.

IV. Public Comments
   • None.

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

a) 1L16 – Graduate Student Continuous Enrollment
   • Regular review of policy. Revised policy approved.
b) 5B1 – Authorization of Contracts & Leases
   • Regular review of policy. Revised policy approved.
c) 1M12 – Authorship Policy
   • Regular review of policy. Revised policy approved.
   • Jen Zuercher brought the above forward for Graduate Council approval. The items were approved with no opposition.

VI. Report of the Programs Committee
a) Integrative Studies: PBC Memo for Individual Program in POLS/PR; MS Memo for Individual Program in IT/PR

- The PBC Memo is a letter of agreement to provide coursework and support for a single INTG student signed by Political Science and Applied Communication Studies, including 9 hours of coursework in ACS and 9 hours of coursework in POLS.
- The MS Memo is a letter of agreement to provide coursework and support for a single INTG student signed by Educational Leadership and Applied Communication Studies, including 18 hours in Instructional Technology and 12 hours in Applied Communication Studies.

b) 91A: Nutrition & Dietetics

- Proposed change includes replacing organic chemistry prerequisite with biochemistry or nutrition chemistry, requiring 2 recommendation letters for application, replacing KIN 509 with NUTR 501, changing credit hours from 2 to 3 for NUTR 511/512/535, reducing Exercise Physiology courses from 3 to 2, and clarifying catalog language.

c) 91A: Exercise & Sport Psychology

- Proposed change includes removal of PBHE 520 as a requirement and increasing number of electives for thesis students. Programs Committee asked the program to edit the catalog language to include a recommendation that thesis students choose a statistics course as one of their electives in cooperation with their advisor along with a list of appropriate statistics courses, and Dr. Benjamin Webb agreed to that edit and provided the appropriate list of electives.

- Heather Johnson brought the above forward for Graduate Council approval. The items were approved with no opposition.

VII. Vote on Chair Elect

- Michael Hair self-nominated to serve as Chair Elect, Heather Johnson seconded his nomination. All voted in favor of Michael Hair serving as Chair Elect with one abstention (Michael Hair).

VIII. Appointments for:

- Textbook Advisory Committee Representative – Michael Shaw agreed to represent the Graduate Council on the committee for the remainder of this academic year.
- Open Meetings Act Representative – Cinnamon VanPutte agreed to serve as the representative for this academic year.
- Graduate Dean Evaluation Committee representatives will be selected at October meeting.

IX. Programs Committee Ex-Officio Membership Additions

- The Associate Provost for Accreditation, Assessment, & Academic Planning as well as the Online Services & Educational Outreach Manager of Federal, State, and Licensure Compliance have requested to be added as ex-officio members of the Graduate Council Programs Committee. Both parties are involved in both ensuring compliance and proper reporting of various changes to graduate programs.
- Heather Johnson motioned that both positions be added as ex-officio non-voting members, Wai Cheah seconded. The motion passed with no opposition.

X. Continuing Business

- Heather Johnson provided an update to an issue discussed last academic year in terms of receiving some graduate applications with fraudulent components. In one of their courses, there were many instances of plagiarism. They are continuing to monitor the situation and reporting the issues to the Provost’s Office.
- Dean Weinberg mentioned the iThenticate license that graduate students can access as a resource to reduce plagiarism. Wai Cheah mentioned a need for international students to be educated on the
differences in academic honesty standards in the United States educational system. Mary Weishaar discussed the existing training provided in orientation to new international students and said they will work to strengthen the training and will also speak with international students directly when appropriate on cultural and academic differences.

XI. New Business
- Michael Shaw said that the Faculty Senate Chair has asked for the shared governance bodies to have discussions to gather information to provide to the Provost/Chancellor on retention, graduation rates, and budgetary issues.
- Heather Johnson mentioned the GA minimum stipend deserves urgent attention and may be negatively impacting graduate enrollment. Jerry Weinberg said that the minimum 50% GA appointment for first-year students is the only rate below minimum wage, and that the departments are able to pay more than the minimum stipends. He believes the discussions about the minimum rates will occur soon, but units will need to determine to how to appropriate those dollars to pay GAs higher salaries.

XII. Adjournment
- Wai Cheah motioned to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.