

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 21, 2023 - ZOOM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Annette Barnes, DNP, MSN
Jennifer Bergner, MSME
Melissa Bugdal, Fulton School Rep
Laurie Couch, Provost
Doug DeWitt, MED
Maida Finch, REED
James Fox, EDLD
Elizabeth Geiger, OGS
Aston Gonzalez, HIST
Clifton Griffin, Dean of Graduate Studies
Amanda Hill, CHHS Rep
Allen Koehler, AVP Enrollment Management
Eric Liebgold, BIO
Scott Mazzetti, HHPF
Pat McDermott (For Tom Calo), Perdue School Rep

Stephen Oby, MSW
Nicholas Plummer, GSC President
Heather Porter, Seidel Rep
Andrea Presotto, GIS
Jessica Scott, OGS
Ignaciyas Soosaipillai, CADR
Christine Spillson, ENGL

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Memo Diriker, Faculty Senate Liaison
Yvonne Downie-Hanley, MBA
Judith Franzak, Ed.D.
Martin Hunter, Registrar
Erin Stutelberg, MAT

I. Call to Order – 3:30pm.

II. Provost Couch – Introduction and Remarks

- Will not be able to attend all meetings but wanted a chance to come to the first meeting.
- Very interested in hearing about graduate experience. Where is demand? What opportunities are available?

III. Elections

The board wanted to thank Dr. Carayon for her service as part Grad Council Chair.

- Chair
 - D. DeWitt volunteered to serve as Chair. He was elected unanimously.
- Vice Chair
 - M. Finch volunteered to serve as Vice Chair. She was elected unanimously.
- Graduate Curriculum Council
 - A. Barnes, M. Bugdal and A. Presotto will return. J. Bergner volunteered to serve as well. M. Bugdal will serve as Chair.
- Academic Policies Committee
 - Will table for now until APC has a charge.

IV. Grad School Proposal

Was a result of the last Strategic Plan and has been a three year process. SWOT analysis and peer review was completed. Unanimously approved by Grad Council and forwarded to Faculty Senate which didn't approve but ultimately agreed more resources were needed for graduate programs. As

committee was preparing document for next steps, everything was halted due to Covid. After the proposal was mentioned in President Lepre's Inauguration Address, it was decided to update the document and proceed.

- Questions
 - A. Barnes – How will this impact faculty status? Most Nursing faculty teach both grad and undergrad. And has SWOT analysis been updated?
 - Faculty Status will not change and reporting structures will stay as is. SWOT was updated and given to Provost.
 - P. McDermott – Is there anything that needs to be reported to Perdue as far as the process?
 - Transition will be seamless but a grad school can offer more support to Y. Downie.
 - M. Finch – Proposal seems to minimize the need for additional resources but may need those to grow enrollment. Should there be a line included that resources will be reassessed during budgeting process?
 - D. DeWitt and C. Griffin will look to add a line addressing that concern. Marketing plan is already impressive. May need some one-time money for rebranding efforts.
 - A. Presotto – Is there an incentive for a grad school?
 - Long Term Benefits - If we graduate a certain number of graduate students we can apply for a reclassification of our Carnegie status. Also gives campus ability to argue for a more aligned funding model with other USM institutions. Short Term Benefits – Rankings, being in line with peer institutions and fundraising opportunities through naming rights.
 - A. Gonzalez – Budgets were cut 10% even though enrollment is steady. There was no funding model for the Gen Ed restructure. Can there be financial assurances?
 - Current budget is dire but a direct result of Covid. A rebound should be expected. As enrollment increases so will tuition dollars.
 - J. Fox – Should we be strategic about potential donors?
 - C. Griffin has met with Jason Curtin. The school needs to be in place before we can get serious about asking potential donors for monetary support.
- By consensus Grad Council is ready to move forward. C. Griffin will want to have a conversation with Dean's Council and will get on their agenda as soon as possible. The current Faculty Senate President is supportive and D. DeWitt will contact her to have it added to the next Faculty Senate agenda.

V. Active Student Graduate Management

- OGS is now monitoring active students. This does not mean they're engaged.
- OGS will rely on Grad Program Directors for more relationship-building.
- J. Scott is working to clean up the active list as she found several instances of students who should not be considered active (dismissals, certificate completions).

VI. Goal to Increase Grad Enrollment

- President's increase is not insignificant.

- Will need more than current list of programs to reach new enrollment goals.
- New programs in pipeline but please consider new certificate offerings, 4+1 programs and new modalities.

VII. International Graduate Assistants

- Delay in receiving social security numbers delays start days and getting paid.
- C. Griffin contacted other USM Deans and they have a system of using temporary identification numbers. This has not been allowed by HR at Salisbury University.
- M. Bugdal – This is not a legal issue. The federal government has made it clear that an international student can start work and get paid while waiting for their social security number. The English student affected has no money for basic necessities and is inhumane.
- A. Presotto – Offered her assistance to international students since she's familiar with the process.
- C. Griffin – Also seeing a number of matriculated students not attend due to visa issues.

VIII. Boot Camp

- Students' needs should drive this.
- There has been a survey in the past but not a lot of student feedback.
- Different departments have different needs.
- Put back on October agenda.

IX. GSC Remarks

- Looking for new initiatives. Any student can submit an initiative suggestion or request.
- Assemblies are meeting first Sunday of each month. Help is needed to get assembly members representing all programs. They do not have to be main campus students.

X. Dean's Remarks

- Provost is supportive and surprised that it's taken this long to get Grad School approved. This is critically important.
- Please look at marketing report that was sent out.

XI. Other Remarks

- J. Scott – Grad students can now update their catalog year through GullNet.
- A. Gonzalez – Would like Grad Council to initiate a review of compensation for Graduate Program Directors. – Will be put on October's agenda.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Submitted by Jessica Scott