

Graduate Studies Council 2021
Minutes from September 25, 2020
Meeting via Microsoft Teams
Approved 10/23/20

Members in Attendance: Neil Rigole (Council Chairperson), Francisco Lopez, Bill Hervey, Benita Muth, Sabrina Wengier, Scott Spangler, Gerald Lucas, Steve Edel, Sumitra Himangshu Pennybacker, Kinzie Lee, Maritza Bell, Corrales

Ex-officios: Dr. Kevin Cantwell and Dr. Loretta Clayton

Call to Order:

- x The meeting called to order at 03 a.m. (Council Chairperson, Dr. Rigole)

Approval of the Agenda

- x Dr. Rigole made a motion to accept the approved 2020 minutes shorted by the Covid-19 actions with the slight changes by the chair for grammar and clarity. Motion is charged by Dr. Sabrina Wengier and seconded by Dr. Sumitra Himangshu Pennybacker.
- x Motion carried, All.

New Business- Nominations for Recorder and Chair Elect

Chairperson's Report and opening:

Dr. Rigole thanked all members of the Council for serving. Dr. Rigole stated with the new changes approved in the Spring by the Council the overall size of the Graduate Council has been reduced in numbers and it currently has a quorum. Dr. Rigole stated the first order of business is to elect a new recorder for the next year with options to stay on for a second, and third if interested?

- x The floor was opened to elect a recorder by nomination or self-nomination. Dr. Spangler self-nominated. Dr. Rigole asked the Council for any other interested parties before closing the floor for nominations and voting. Motion is charged by Dr. Sabrina Wengier and seconded by Dr. Sumitra Himangshu Pennybacker.
- x Motion carried, All approved Dr. Spangler as 2021 recorder.

Dr. Rigole stated the next order of business is to open the floor for electing a new chair elect for the Graduate Council. He thanked the Council for their support and stated with his new roles in the University he will be unable to continue

However, Dr. Rigole cautioned prior to asking for nominations the Council's needs to understand the new eligibility qualifications under the approved 2020 governance changes. Dr. Rigole stated prior to anyone being nominated or re-nominated into the chair, the nominee must qualify. Dr. Rigole explained the new chair charge and explained the new bylaw changes to the position requiring a tenured faculty member and nominee be a current MGA Graduate School instructor. Dr. Rigole reviewed the current Council members eligibility including Neil Rigole (Council Chairperson), Francisco Lopez, Bill Hervey, Benita Muth, Sabrina Wengier, Scott Spangler, Gerald Lucas, Sumitra Hima, Resmy Backer,

- x Dr. Rigole noted Gerald Lucas self-nomination. Dr. Rigole asked for the floor to be closed. Dr. Rigole called for a motion to accept and nominate Dr. Gerry Lucas as the upcoming Graduate Council Elect 2022.
- x Motion carried, All approved Dr. Gerry Lucas Graduate Council Chairperson Elect.

Dean's Report—Dr. Cantwell

Dr. Cantwell first, thanked all the participants on the Council and stated he is looking forward to working with the new chair elect Dr. Lucas.

Discussion on state of graduate program:

Dr. Cantwell discussed the current state of the University's graduate program. Dr. Cantwell announced that the current semester's graduate enrollment had reached 393 students. Furthering the discussion, Dr. Cantwell stated, although the number didn't reach the project goal level of 400, Dr. Cantwell explained the rate of enrollment, retention, and completion rates have all shown increases. "We have outstripped our initial 2016 growth projections by 75%. We now have a strong portfolio of programs running today, and all (programs) are on track."

Changes in the Graduate School:

Additionally, Dr. Cantwell noted Liz Douglas has resigned her position and Drew Macintosh will be stepping in on an interim basis as the new Graduate Office contact person and key contact for graduate admissions. Dr. Cantwell asked Dr. Rigole to invite the interim contact to attend and introduce himself to the Council during the October meeting.

Doctorate of Science in Information Technology (D.Sc. IT) update:

Dr. Cantwell expressed the D.Sc. will be voted on by SACSCOC on its December meeting. Dr. Cantwell expressed he is anticipating a positive vote. Additionally, he noted Dr. Blake discussed with Dr. Koohang, Provost DeMatthews and Dr. Cantwell in regards towards start date for the D.Sc. IT. The group discussed a soft starting date of June 21, 2021. Then a hard start in August 2021. Dean stated this is a achievable agenda. Dr. Cantwell stated the start of the new program) will be an exciting milestone for the university!

Update on the MSOT:

Furthering attention in the graduate program, Dr. Cantwell stated the MSOT occupation therapy is resubmitting for a subchange to SACSCOC. Explaining the need for the new submission, Dr. Cantwell clarified the past submission's start date was out of the calendar's reach because of COVID-19 issues. Hence()JTJ(io)2 (r)3 (ds)JTJ 60.35 0 Td (Soamd)-4 (ev)-14s

Cantwell anticipates a Fall 20 cohort start date headquartered at the Cochran Campus. Dr. Cantwell noted the new program allows for enrolling students with a license and an associate degree to be accepted in the MSOT program. The program will be the 74-hour curriculum and the only one of its kind in the Southeast.

School of Arts and Letters Proposal:

Additionally, Dr. Cantwell furthered new actions explaining the School of Arts and Letters proposal has been sent to board of Regents for MA in Public Relations (a 30-hour program scheduled to begin in fall of 2021). The new MA will have eight new classes. This is the reason for the sub change. Dr. Cantwell noted there are only two courses that are in current use out of the 10 required and there is no concentration at the bachelor's level. However, Dr. Cantwell expressed the MA will not require a level change. Dr. Cantwell states he will be the primary writer on the project. Dr. Cantwell expressed the fact that Dr. E and Dr. Lorretta Clayton needed to be at next Academic affairs meeting to discuss the actions.

President's Thoughts on the Graduate Programs:

President emphasized need for a balance between online success with a face-to-face presence. He has asked for proposals on the action. Cantwell suggests in the new MA in professional studies will help start a model for the face-to-face presence. Additionally, a new MA in General Studies will have three graduate concentrations drawn from management, MSIT, and current MA program. Hence, it will have no new courses and no need for sub change and accrue any financial aid issues. Dr. Cantwell (d. 07) can be reached at (910) 485-1414 or (910) 261-1144.

prepare for a Spring 2020 visit. Although, he understands the SACSCOC committees are reviewing the 300 plus page report but have been slowed down because of the COVID-19 issues.

Report from the Director of Graduate Student Policy and Support– Dr. Clayton
Dr. Clayton expressed happiness towards a successful start to the Work Group graduate assistantships including Dr. Benita Muth and Dr. Neil Rigole. The Work Group’s goal is to rethink graduate assistantships in all ways. Dr. Clayton noted the assistantships originally started in Fall, 2016. Dr. Clayton noted he will be asking the council’s thoughts and looking to address the current graduate assistantship handbook in a “Thinktank”.

Additionally, Dr. Clayton said the Council should consider creating a graduate studies Fact Book. Dr. Clayton suggests the Council could model it after the new Fact Book after the University’s for a recruitment tool. It should be filled with data and information about graduate studies student council and highlights of graduates.

To finish, Dr. Clayton asked Council members to review the current catalog that is updated and online for any issues in the catalog. Dr. Clayton stated the updates include the DSIT.

Announcements

Oct. 23, next meeting. Dr. Rigole thanked Dr. Brasler and Dr. Lucas for stepping into their new Council roles

Motion to Adjourn:

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