

Graduate Council Minutes

Friday, September 20, 2019

Attendance: Gordon Brooks, Cat Cutcher (for Arthur Hughes), Charlotte Elster, Andrew Fodor, Pete Harrington, Alix Hibbitt, Wojciech Jadwisieniczak, Paul Jones, David Koonce, Joseph Lee, Sally Marinellie, Brian McCarthy, Greg Newton, Patrick O'Connor, Shawn Ostermann, Ann Paulins, Erik Ramsey, Andy Ray, Assan Sarr, Carol Schaumleffel, Jennifer Smith, Katie Tadlock, Dareen Tadros, and Lijing Yang

Excused: Geoff Dabelko, Andrea Frohne, Janet Hulm, and Joe Shields

Convened: The meeting was convened at 3:03 pm.

1. Approval of the minutes of the May 3, 2019 meeting
Gordon proposed amending the information in the Program Review Committee, Environmental Studies Program Review section be changed to read "The committee and Graduate Council support UCC program review comments." The Council agreed with the proposed change.
Action: Council approved minutes with the above modifications.
2. Chair's Report: Gordon Brooks
 - Gordon started the meeting by asking everyone to introduce themselves.
 - Gordon reviewed the past committee structure and distributed the committee interest sheet. Gordon asked all members to complete this interest sheet. Gordon will assign committee's their members based on expressed interest.
 - Gordon asked the council for guidance on the understanding of service limit to Graduate Council. Appointment recommendations are made by Faculty Senate, then President approves. Serving on Faculty Senate is a three-year appointment with the possibility of a three-year renewal. Is this everyone's understanding about Graduate Council as well.? After discussion, Graduate Council agreed that this is the understanding of appointments, however, with extenuating circumstances, the council agrees that flexibility may be in order.
 - Gordon identified some items the council will be tackling this year:
 - Continuous enrollment,
 - Continued conversation about graduate faculty status, and
 - The shift in publishing an annual Graduate Catalog.
3. Graduate Student Senate (GSS) Report: Dareen Tadros
 - Dareen described the success with the Graduate Student Orientation (GSO) – Online Module.
 - GSS will be examining closely the current student health insurance situation.
 - The first GSS networking event is coming up soon.
4. Remarks by Associate Dean of the Graduate College: David Koonce
 - David shared enrollment numbers for Fall 2019 graduate students.
 - Census count 5,399 students (5,362 this AM)
Up 143 from last fall
 - Athens 2282
 - down 112 from last fall
 - Elearn/Dublin/outreach

- Up 255 from last fall
- Historical Perspective - Since the Graduate College was formed in Fall 2008
 - Athens enrollment is down 480 students (-17%)
 - Elearn/Dublin/Outreach is up 2,526 (427%)
 - Overall up 2,046 (61%)

Discussion

- The council expressed concern stating Responsibility Centered Management (RCM) forces the university to increase the number of online and fee-paying students.
- Many council members wonder at what expense?
- There is a shared concern about shifting from research students to professional students and members suggested a discussion needs to happen with President and Provost.
- Do we need a Planning and Strategy Committee or ad hoc committee for this shift from residential vs. online?
- Should the council pass a statement with regards to the President and Provost? Should this statement include the language from the recent State of the University Address?
- Regarding “Continuous Enrollment”, David is looking for a formal policy recommendation from Graduate Council. David recognizes this will be a significant cultural change. The Policies and Regulations committee has been working on this strategy. David hopes this policy will address the access challenge faced by doctoral students who are not enrolled and, by definition, cannot access university services.
- Awarding certificates not attached to a degree program is a real challenge and will need to be addressed this year by Graduate Council. Katie updated the council the current dynamic surrounding certificates at the university.

Discussion

Council members asked if there rules on sharing courses?

There are some unanswered questions about awarding certificates and the issues surrounding stand-alone certificates have not been addressed. Undergraduate students can earn stand-alone certificates. This change has influenced those at the university and there is now a will to address this issue.

Stackable certificate guidelines are in the new graduate catalog

- David stated Accelerated Pathways Program is likely to be another topic that Graduate Council will need to discuss this year.
 - David announced Beth Quitslund is staying on as a faculty fellow and will be working on a curricular documentation process. She will be working with Institutional Research, Office of Information Technology, and the Registrar. Ocean is the system of record, the method for checking on curricular progress is DARS, and DARS is not built for the complicated graduate requirements, so there is a need for a curricular management system. Some departments have kept up with the documentation and others have not. The university’s concern about audit findings from accreditors is driving this project.
 - David stated that Beth will be working on the graduate catalog, also.
 - David announced that CIP instructional coding revisions will be out soon.
5. Remarks by Assistant Dean of the Graduate College: Katie Tadlock
Fall 2020 applications are open and prospective students can apply.
 6. Curriculum Committee
-Gordon Brooks will chair this committee.

-Gordon described the Curriculum committee's charge and process. This committee reviews new programs and program changes. As follow up from the spring, there was a program change that Graduate Council will not need to address again. One graduate program reviewed in the spring caused the council concern about faculty status. This program is working with Higher Learning Commission. There was concern with another program, ETM program, and as a result, ETM is working with state and the Graduate College to resolve the concerns.

-UCC hopes to move things more quickly and has implemented a two-meeting rule. The bridge committee helps with this. Any minor changes to program will move forward automatically. The bridge committee will review programs where there are stated concerns. This review may be independent from the Graduate Council meeting.

7. Program Review Committee

-Charlotte Elster will chair this committee.

-Charlotte described Program Review committee's charge and process. UCC does program reviews. The program review committee reviews information and sends UCC comments collected at Graduate Council. For efficient distribution of materials for review, Becky will work with Charlotte to set up OneDrive folders.

8. Graduate Student Affairs and Fellowships Committee

-Pete Harrington will chair this committee.

-Pete described Program Review committee's charge and process. Pete asked about the deadline for the MAGS thesis award. The deadline for consideration from MAGS/ProQuest is November 1, 2020. Becky will send information out to students and graduate chairs seeking nominations.

-Pete requested a graduate student representative serve on this committee.

9. Policies and Regulations Committee

-Greg Newton will chair this committee.

-Greg described Program Review committee's charge and process. This committee will be wrestling with the Continuous Enrollment Policy.

-Greg requested a graduate student representative serve on this committee.

10. Recruitment and Admission Requirements Committee

-Ann Paulins will chair this committee.

-Ann described Program Review committee's charge and process. Thirteen conflict of interest (COI) forms were presented to the council and the council reviewed all mitigation plans.

Action: Graduate Council approved the Conflict of Interest plans for the following graduate students:

Edmund (Eddie) Ashworth, approved as written

James Bruggeman, approved as written

Jessica Cook, approved as written

Paa Nyarko-Krampah, approved with the stipulation that he is not assigned to work on instructional design for anyone in the Russ College of Engineering

Zachary Reichard, approved with the stipulation that he not access or be assigned work for students in his program or any other Counseling and Higher Education program

Matthew Thompson, approved as written

11. Old Business

Members questioned whether the final Graduate Council meeting should be the same day as Spring Graduate Commencement. Becky will look at the availability of space for the week earlier (April 24, 2020) and the council will revisit this discussion at the next meeting.

12. New Business
None

The meeting was adjourned at 4:46 pm.