

GRADUATE COUNCIL

Faculty Senate

MINUTES

Thursday, February 20th, 2025, 2:30 PM

Graduate School Conference Room, RH 2215

And Zoom

PRESENT: Cinnamon VanPutte (Chair), Soondo Kweon, Therese Dickman, Liz Cali, Carole Frick, Chin-Chuan Wei, Dan Segrist, Ramana Madupalli, Adriana Martinez, Jill Smucker, Priscilla Codjoe, Bernadette Sobczak, Gloria Sweida, Eric Wrobbel, Cheryl Borowiak, Rony Die, James Monahan

ABSENT: Andrea Keller

EXCUSED: Bhargav Patel

GUESTS:

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

I. Announcements

- A. Course Review Committee (CRC) Report – On SharePoint
- B. Graduate Committee on Assessment (GCOA) Report – No Report
- C. Enrollment Management Report

Jim Monahan let the Council know that graduate admission applications have been flat for domestic students but up for international students. He also let them know that they are still behind on processing new applications and issuing I20's. For spring, the final number of Visa approvals is down dramatically, approximately half what it normally is. It was asked if Jim is seeing a pattern on Visa denials and approvals, and he responded that there is no pattern.

D. Student Affairs Announcements - None

E. International Affairs Announcements

Cheryl Borowiak let the Council know that International Affairs has been making sure to connect with both undergraduate and graduate students on resources available to international students. They also have been moving forward with taking groups of students to local sporting events with a good turnout. She also recently met with their SEVIS representative who confirmed that international students are not in danger of problems with their status as long as they are not doing anything illegal.

F. Graduate School Announcements

- i. Liz Cali let the Council know about the Graduate School's new Dean and Associate Provost for Research, Dr. Chris Slaten who will start June 1st. The new Dean has

been confirmed with the Board of Trustees and should be announced by the Provost soon.

- ii. Liz also described a pilot dual MBA program with international institutions that the Graduate School and several other offices have been collaborating on. The dual program will give students the opportunity to complete 50% of their credit hours at SIUE and 50% of them at the partner institution. As Liz and the other offices involved move forward, they are meeting to make sure no policies are violated with the pilot program. The students who graduate would end up with two MBA degrees: one from their home international institution and one from SIUE. Each partnering institution will have their own MOU agreement with SIUE to provide articulation agreements and outline the specific curriculum provided by each institution.. The idea for this two-year pilot is to recruit students that do not already go to SIUE. However, the possibility for current SIUE students to participate may be possible
- iii. It was asked if there were already some international institutions lined up to participate and Liz answered that five are interested. Jim Monahan also added that there are not yet any signed agreements as it is still in the discussion phase. However, this is something that is already being done at SIUE at the undergraduate level with the 2+2 program. Liz added that they hope that additional partnership pathways could be created at the master's level in the future. They are currently discussing partnerships with institutions in Ecuador, Peru, and India. When asked about the timeline for the rollout she responded that the goal is fall 2025 for agreements to be in place. She also specified that students would start at their home country institution first and then come to SIUE. Students who participate would go through the same Visa process as current international students.
- iv. The limitations on international students and taking online courses was discussed and it was specified that the same federal rule would apply, where international students are only allowed to take one online course per semester. All F1 visa regulations apply, including employment regulations.
- v. Liz explained the benefits of the program for students and the partner institutions. The students often are already working in a position that encourages a degree in the United States and it is an opportunity for the partner institution to attract more students. Council members were encouraged to contact Dean Hayek from the School of Business if they want to find out more about the program.
- vi. Liz let the Council know about an announcement from the Provost at Faculty Senate called the Program Prioritization Plan. Using a variety of data from Institutional Research, lists of programs that have been identified as struggling are being evaluated by School and College Deans. There are two phases of recommendations: Phase 1- Program is Considered for Phasing Out or Restructuring and Phase 2- Recommendation for Restructuring. The program leadership will have the opportunity to review the report and then respond with a proposal. A Council member responded from the faculty union perspective letting everyone know that phasing out a program could not happen easily or quickly. It was also specified that any currently enrolled students in a program that ended up phased out would be allowed to complete their program. It was also specified that both undergraduate and graduate programs are under consideration. . The Council was notified that the Provost would be at the next Council meeting to discuss this further.
- vii. Liz gave the Council an update on the status of the federal funding freeze as a result of the recent executive order. The order is currently paused on all funds that had

already been approved before the order went into effect. The stance of the Graduate School, in conjunction with the SIU system, is business as usual. All funds that had already been approved should be accessible. Anyone who runs into trouble with drawing down funds should contact the Graduate School. Grant activities should be continued but spending should not span across future years.

- viii. She talked also about the executive order with the NIH ICR rate reduction . This is in a similar status as the federal funding freeze order, pending legal action. She let them know that there is a link on the Graduate School web page to current updates.

G. Other Announcements

Therese Dickman gave the Council an update on the research sessions the Library has been facilitating on Friday's at 11. There is a link on their webpage.

II. Approval of Minutes of December 12, 2024

Eric Wrobbel motioned to approve the minutes. Chin-Chuan Wei seconded the motion. The motion carried.

III. Public Comments - None

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

A. GR2425-07: Guidelines for Course Categories, Class Scheduling, and Publications, Policy 1C1

Jill Smucker let the council know that ERP had reviewed the Guidelines for Course Categories, Class Scheduling, and Publications, Policy 1C1 with input from the Registrar and had approved it. It is available to view on SharePoint.

V. Report of the Programs Committee

- A. 91A: Speech-Language Pathology
- B. Full Program Review: Pharmaceutical Sciences

Gloria Sweida let the Council know that the Committee had approved the 91A for Speech-Language Pathology and had voted that Pharmaceutical Sciences needed intervention - below capacity but that the program is in good standing overall.

VI. Continuing Business – None

VII. New Business

- A. Request for exception to allow for early implementation of curriculum changes by EdD program

Jill Smucker reminded the Council of the agenda item earlier in the fall that had been approved for EdD. Part of that proposal had been the addition of a new course for the Superintendent track. The program is requesting that they be allowed to implement the approved proposal for

the fall 2025 Catalog as an exception to policy 1Q8. The program's justification includes that this additional course will better prepare students to conduct effective research to complete the degree.

Eric Wrobbel motioned to approve the request. Bernadette Sobczak seconded the motion. The motion carried.

VIII. Adjournment

Carole Frick motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:34 PM. Therese Dickman seconded the motion. The motion carried.