

GRADUATE COUNCIL

Faculty Senate

MINUTES

Thursday, November 24th, 2024, 2:30 PM

Graduate School Conference Room, RH 2215

PRESENT: Gloria Sweida (Acting Chair), Priscilla Codjoe, Soondo Kweon, Therese Dickman, Liz Cali, Eric Wrobbel, Carole Frick, Bhargav Patel, Chin-Chuan Wei, Rony Die, Iyanuoluwa Fatunmbi, Bernadette Sobczak, Dan Segrist, James Monahan, Ramana Madupalli

ABSENT: Cheryl Borowiak, Adriana Martinez

EXCUSED: Cinnamon VanPutte, Andrea Keller, Jill Smucker

GUESTS:

The meeting was called to order at 2:33 p.m. by Gloria Sweida, Acting Chair.

I. Announcements

A. Course Review Committee (CRC) Report – On SharePoint

B. Graduate Committee on Assessment (GCOA) Report – On SharePoint

C. Enrollment Management Report

- i. Jim Monahan let the Council know that graduate admission applications are up over last year and they are behind in processing. They are also up in spring 25 approved applications. There are also several countries where Visas are still a struggle.
- ii. Jim asked Council members to make sure their Graduate Program Directors know about the upcoming transition from Radius to Slate for admission applications. Over the summer GPD's might want to review last-minute applications for fall 25 as those apps might be affected by the change in software. Jim will send out more information about the change as the details are known. Their plans are to complete the processing of new international student applications before the change to Slate but they may not be done with domestic students.

D. Student Affairs Announcements

- i. Rony Die made sure the Council was aware that Miriam Rocchia had been named as the permanent Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. He also let the Council know about a grant they had been awarded of \$200,000 to address basic student needs. The grant will need to be spent this year. It will be used to help support emergency funding, prop up the food pantry, and support student housing needs. The Council members were encouraged to let their students know about it. Information about the funds can be found [here](#).
- ii. This led to a discussion about graduate student needs and how those needs are tracked. Rony told the Council that student needs are tracked mainly through

Counseling Services Care Reports. They have also tracked usage of the Cougar Cupboard and have seen that it is highly used by graduate students and those students are mainly international students. It was also mentioned that Student Employment had been seeing challenges with navigating the volume of applications to student employment positions.

E. International Affairs Announcements - None

F. Graduate School Announcements

- i. Liz Cali encouraged Council members to share their ideas on ways to support graduate students. They can also bring their ideas to Jill Smucker. She and Jill are particularly looking for ideas to support students moving from an undergraduate education at SIUE to graduate. This led to a discussion about the search for a Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management as some Council members had concerns about recruitment within their programs. Jim Monahan shared that his office does some recruitment of graduate students, but he encouraged each graduate program to think of their own recruitment. He encouraged each school to evaluate their online presence as that is what prospective students are looking at most.
- ii. Council members were encouraged to attend graduate student graduation on 12/13 at 5 PM.
- iii. Liz gave the Council members an update on the international travel policy that had been reviewed previously. The policy will be going before the board on 12/5.
- iv. The Graduate School is offering new support for grant writing by hosting a webinar. An announcement was sent to all faculty. The Webinar will be recorded, and Liz will share the recording afterward.

G. Other Announcements

- i. Therese Dickman let the Council know that University photographs and the Alestle are being digitized by the library. They are also having their last research session at the beginning of December.

II. Approval of Minutes of October 17, 2024

Therese Dickman motioned to approve the minutes. Carole Frick seconded the motion. The motion carried.

III. Public Comments

Carole Frick let the Council know that the textbook advisory committee is reassessing the idea of graduate students using textbook services. Graduate courses often have too many books that correspond with one course and it doesn't make sense for all graduate courses to use textbook services.

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

A. GR2425-03 Graduate Degree Culminating Projects – 1L8

Bhargav Patel let the council know that ERP had reviewed the Policy on Graduate Degree Culminating Projects and made minor changes to it that were available to review on SharePoint.

V. Report of the Programs Committee

- A. Interim Program Review: Social Work
- B. Interim Program Review: Geography
- C. Applied Communication Studies 91A: Condensing specializations

Gloria Sweida let the Council know that the interim program review of Social Work had been approved but with the addition of a memo that was sent to the Provost Office requesting additional hiring for the program. The Geography interim program review and Applied Communication Studies 91A had both been approved

VI. Continuing Business

- A. APR/Dean of the Graduate School Search Update

Liz Cali reminded the Council about the open forums for each candidate. The information on each candidate is being sent to the academic list serv. She reminded them that at least 50% of faculty needed to vote using the survey for feedback on the open forum.

VII. New Business - None

VIII. Adjournment

Carole Frick motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:21 PM. Ramana Madupalli seconded the motion. The motion carried.