12.1.12 Graduate Committee Meeting

Called to order 10am

**Present**: Sean Cote, Julie Horwitz, David Blanchette, Nathasha Feinberg, Joan Walsh, Jenn Meade, Deborah Britt, Anita Duneer, Leslie Schuster, Charles Boisvert

**Proposals**:

None scheduled; might be one or two for February, TBD (a bunch coming from the school of ed.)

Welcome Lucia (“loo-sha”), MSW candidate & GA for the accounting department.

**Votes for November motion:**

All yes, 1 abstaining (Jenn) Natasha proposed the motion and Deb seconded motion.

**Other updates**:

We have an excel file for program directors if anyone needs contacts - access through Sean or Lucia (lperluck\_7385@email.ric.edu)

**Dean’s Report**, David Blanchette:

* Grad expo review:
  + 242 attended in total (slightly more than last year, before covid we had 350)
  + 82 filled survey.
  + Survey results: 70% rated event as terrific, 20% worthwhile, 1% disappointing
  + Comments were very positive; people were helpful, informative
  + Most of the promotion was done through social media, which attracted a younger crowd.
* Why so few surveys completed?
  + Last time attendees needed to complete the survey to get the waiver. Maybe we need this motivation.
  + Perhaps because a mass of people entered all at once
* Question: How do we get more people?
  + Maybe we should utilize networking information from different programs
* Question: Are you planning to have smaller events for your school?
  + Jenn: We have 6, the last one is January 9
  + Q: how do you get resources to do that?
  + A: We had a director of admissions who would do that, but now it’s just me
  + Joan: We also have informational sessions, it’s us and our administration aids.
  + Charles: How does that work?
  + A: Ours is pretty formalized; we have an entire agenda we go through, talk about the program, schedule, sometimes faculty joins. We’ve had 3 w/ around 172 people. Some on Saturday mornings and some in the evenings.
  + J: 4:30/5pm is typical time for us (Nursing dept.)
  + Q: how do you advertise?
  + We put it out on RIC’s social media; it’s on our website
  + J: I also sent out a survey to ask why/how people came to the session
* Question: Marketing/communications has a real social media perspective. But you need the message and the target. Who’s the target?
  + A: schools have the target, but nobody got in touch with the schools to find out. It’s a problem with marketing & resources.
  + Posts weren’t tagged with Providence Public Schools
  + Problem is with supply. How do you expand without faculty?
  + A: To me, one of the important resources is employers. The endpoint for most promotion is people who are trying to advance in their careers, so where are their careers now?
  + A: I suggest, put things on the website, contact who you can, and go from there
  + A: most of what we’re talking about here centers around resources. What I’m putting together is a break-even analysis & cost volume process analysis. Administration needs to recognize the value of $$ generated from grad programs.
  + A: Right now it’s about policy revisions. Making policies cohesive. Administrative support for Graduate studies is 0.2 positions.
* Question: If we don’t have $, what should we be doing? What steps can we take in the next 4 months to move the graduate school forward?
  + A: Jenn and I can provide a brief outline of what we do in our informational sessions (powerpoint attached.)
* Discussion: Leslie met with the president and he doesn’t know anything about grad studies but he wanted to. Told him that we’re doing fabulously considering there’s no promotion. But graduate programs and graduate students are neglected. Going to write something up to share with the committee.
* Dave thinks we underutilize structure that we have to allow undergrads to take grad classes. It’s not our main source of students, but maybe we can do more there.
* Jenn: we have about 30 students in the accelerated MSW program who start taking classes as juniors.

**What’s ahead:**

Meeting with the provost on December 14th @ 12:30

* Plan/possible agenda items:
  + We should come in with one clear message - we want something that is actionable
  + Is there a process for the college for putting grad programs online?

Meeting adjourned at 11:07am

Minutes submitted by Lucia Perluck