



Minutes
Graduate Committee Meeting
Virtual Meeting
April 2, 2021 10 AM

Members Present: Leo Pinheiro (Chair), Jennifer Meade, Anita Duneer, Leslie Schuster (non-voting), Monica Darcy, Ying Hui, Gerri August, Michelle Barrus, Justin DiLibero (recorder)

Guests: Sue Del (SPED), Paul LaCava (SPED, proposal 18), Helen Tate (Provost) Alexis Rogel

1. Call to Order: 10:01
2. Approval of the March meeting minutes: Y. Hui move to approve, J. Meade second; 8 approved, 0 nay, 0 abstention.
3. New Business

Proposals

2021_19 M.Ed. Special Learning Need (ELN)

Revision to Program

1. Motion to approve M. Darcey, second J. Meade
2. P. LaCava – proposal to add concentration to masters in exceptional learning needs program – for licensed educators. Concentrations change over time. Currently there are only two concentrations available. Intention is to add concentrations that are relevant to the field.
3. Approved 9, 0 abstention, 0 Nay

2021_20 M.Ed. Severe Intellectual Disabilities (SID)

Revision to Program for SID CGS

1. Motion to approve H. Ying, second J. Meade
2. S. Dell – SID certification was standalone in the past, then RIDE required this to be changed. RIDE is now allowing this to be a standalone certification again.. This proposal will allow flexibility in determining what core background/courses will meet this requirement. Discussion. H. Ying – this will open the doors for students who do not have a previous degree in special education, providing an important pathway to better meet the needs of students. This will increase the work of program coordinators – but is well aligned with mission of college and needs of state.
3. Approved 9, Abstention 0, Nay 0

4. Visit from Provost and VPAA Dr. Helen Tate

Provost Tate joined for a discussion around questions related to graduate studies, role, and vision. H. Tate recognizes that graduate programs often take a side seat to UG programs. There is no one-size fits all plan. Goal is to understand uniqueness of each program, while also applying broader themes related to higher education – especially in the area of graduate studies. i.e. we are not expecting the same level of increase in graduate education seen after the recession, but rather the need for more tailored certificate types of options. Determination of program performance is complex, and metrics used outside of higher ed are often not applicable. Hopeful that program review process including quantitative and qualitative data will be helpful in informing sustainability, productivity, value and impact.

Some general trends we are seeing include more adult learners. Flexibility is key, and we must pay attention to what competitors are they offering, and how they compare/compete. It is important to understand opportunities to be more adaptable and make our programs more available to different groups of students. Program review will help us identify opportunities that exist. We need market analysis to help us understand the region, needs and areas for investment.

Discussion: L. Pinherio – Asked for clarification of whether current infrastructure (i.e. Dean of Enrollment) is intended to support graduate studies as well as UG.

H. Tate explained that current infrastructure largely focused on UC and needs of Graduate studies are different. i.e. Dean of enrollment is focused on strategy for UG – strategy is on CRM using big data. Graduate students and adult learners are very different markets, needs its own attention and systems.

M. Darcy – Raised question of how best to support key areas such as recruitment and outreach given insufficiencies in infrastructure – i.e. long-standing interim status of office of Dean of Graduate studies, and loss of administrative support.

H. Tate discussed importance of determining who RIC will serve and what size we will be. In RI alone we are expecting an 18% reduction in UG enrollment. Serving adult learners and graduate students is a major opportunity for RIC. Exploring 7-8 week semesters, year-long programs, rolling admissions. Agrees that infrastructure will be needed to support this.

I. Duneer – English exploring possibility of online/hybrid MA. If we build this, how will we get the word out. Can the college help us promote?

J. Tate – marketing piece is missing. We are looking at companies to help with market analysis. They look at what competencies are being sought in job postings. Shared example of market analysis – suggesting the need for stackable certificates/credentials that meet the needs of market.

K. Schuster – Strategy such as moving to 7-8 year semester is long-term multi-year project. How do we get the support that we need in the moment?

L. Pinheiro – Presidents focus on re-introducing RIC to the community, and the compact almost exclusively focuses on UG. Discussion followed around the limited focus of GCC on curriculum, and lack of process to support Graduate programs.

- a. L. Shuster frequently sends stories of student success to marketing and President, but nothing is done with it.

- b. H. Ying – RIC is only programs in state for education and SW
 - c. J. Meade – Chad Minnich who was starting to focus on graduate studies, and promotion. He has since left, and there has not been any follow up.
 - d. H. Tate suggest the need for GCC to be more vocal in sharing success and needs of graduate studies
 - e. D. Marcy – Infrastructure – GCC is a curriculum committee. To request to be more vocal – can you provide guidance on how to do this, and to whom.
 - f. L. Pinheiro – Problem is lack of infrastructure. Office of Graduate Dean position in institution is not clear.
 - g. L. Schuster – success of office of Dean of Graduate Studies with regards to funding is because of efforts to reach out and build relationships with other offices rather than other offices having a good understanding of graduate programs needs. i.e. funding to support student attendance/presentation at conferences which is no longer available.
 - h. G. August - how do we support alum to return for advanced certificates, etc. this is generally not part of our thinking as a college.
 - i. H. Tate – we are starting to think about how we might leverage alum (i.e. as RIC ambassadors) specifically for school of ed.
 - j. L. Schuster - In past we received funds from President Sanchez, which were renewed by Jason Merriweather. This was a great support for recruitment and retention. This funding has been lost.
 - k. H. Tate – asked about impact. Group responded that specific impact was not tracked, but that program directors could all speak to the value of this funding in recruitment and retention efforts.
 - l. A. Rogel – Graduate activity fee was put under student community government – Past president of SCG was unwilling to return funding to graduate studies. Can we revisit now that we have a new president of SCG?
- J. H. Tate reported that she hears the frustration of graduate studies, and sees that there is a lot of work that needs to be done. This will need to be a methodical process. We need clarity around strategic planning for graduate studies, and will need to ensure appropriate structure and processes.

5. Report of the Chair:

- 1. Time yielded to allow discussion with VPAA

6. Report of the Dean of Graduate Studies:

- 1. Commencement: Dates have been set and info has been sent out.
- 2. Grad assistant funding

7. Adjournment.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:42