

GRADUATE COUNCIL

Faculty Senate

MINUTES

Thursday, December 12th, 2024, 1:00 PM

Graduate School Conference Room, RH 2215

And Zoom

PRESENT: Cinnamon VanPutte (Chair), Soondo Kweon, Therese Dickman, Liz Cali, Carole Frick, Bhargav Patel, Chin-Chuan Wei, Iyanuoluwa Fatunmbi, Dan Segrist, Ramana Madupalli, Adriana Martinez, Jill Smucker

ABSENT: Priscilla Codjoe, Rony Die

EXCUSED: Gloria Sweida, Eric Wrobbel, Bernadette Sobczak, James Monahan, Cheryl Borowiak
Andrea Keller

GUESTS:

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m. by Cinnamon VanPutte, Chair.

I. Announcements

- A. Course Review Committee (CRC) Report – On SharePoint
- B. Graduate Committee on Assessment (GCOA) Report – On SharePoint
- C. Enrollment Management Report - None
- D. Student Affairs Announcements - None
- E. International Affairs Announcements - None
- F. Graduate School Announcements
 - i. Liz Cali let the Council know that spring Graduate Program Director meetings will be held February 3rd and February 4th. An email with more information will be sent out soon.
 - ii. She also wanted to draw the Council members' attention to the upcoming Higher Learning Commission ten-year accreditation review of SIUE and their campus visit happening on March 31st and April 1st. All faculty members are encouraged to be present on campus during those days. They should also be on the lookout for a request from Elza Ibroscheva, Associate Provost, looking for groups of faculty and students to meet with HLC representatives. For faculty members that will be in the classroom in the spring, Elza will be sending a survey that she will ask to be distributed to students. It was asked if HLC might also visit other SIUE locations, such as the School of Dental Med and the East St. Louis campus, and the answer was yes, they can request to visit any university associated off-campus sites.
- G. Other Announcements

- i. Therese Dickman gave the Council an update on the research sessions the Library had held in the fall. There were twenty-four sessions and 209 participants. They plan on scheduling more research sessions for the spring. She will give the Council members more information once the information is available.

II. Approval of Minutes of November 21, 2024

Carole Frick motioned to approve the minutes. Bhargav Patel seconded the motion. The motion carried.

III. Public Comments - None

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

- A. GR2425-05: Graduate Student Course Loads, Policy 1L1
- B. GR2425-06: Graduate Degree Retention, Policy 1L2

Bhargav Patel let the council know that ERP had reviewed both policies and made minor changes to them that were unanimously agreed upon. The updated versions are available to review on SharePoint.

V. Report of the Programs Committee

- A. Interim Program Review: Nursing (all graduate programs)

Jill Smucker let the Council know that Nursing had acted on all of the recommendations from their previous program review and the committee had approved the interim program review report.

VI. Continuing Business

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

Cinnamon VanPutte let the Council know that the on-campus interviews for the APR/Dean of the Graduate School position had been concluded and the search committee co-chairs had met with the Provost to give the committee's recommendations. They are at the point of checking references now. Once references are checked the Provost will take the next steps.

VII. New Business

- A. Representative for Reduced-Credit Bachelor's Degree Programs & Competency-Based Curricula Initiative

Liz Cali wanted the Council to be aware that the Higher Learning Commission has approved a curricular path for completing a bachelor's degree in 90 credit hours as opposed to 120 hours. This applies not just to the state of Illinois but is more broadly based. SIUE is at an exploratory stage of discussing potential reduced credit hour bachelor degrees and will be evaluating how other institutions implement them.. She listed some of the benefits this could offer students such as lower student debt and ensuring more equitable access to education. Right now, SIUE is

putting committees together to determine what programs this could work for and Liz is encouraging a Graduate Council representative serve on one of those committees to help ensure that graduate education is properly represented.

It was asked if a graduate student could be involved, and Liz replied that she would find out the answer to that. It was also asked if this change could affect professional schools, such as the School of Pharmacy, and the answer was yes. It would mainly affect how admissions are conducted, not the actual graduate programs.

VIII. Adjournment

Carole Frick motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:24 PM. Soondo Kweon seconded the motion. The motion carried.