

GRADUATE COUNCIL

Faculty Senate

MINUTES

Thursday, February 15, 2024, 2:30 PM

Graduate School Conference Room, RH 2215

PRESENT: Michael Hair (Chair), Soondo Kweon, Jerry Weinberg, Therese Dickman, Liz Cali, Jill Smucker, Jim Monahan, Wai Cheah, Beidi Qiang, Gloria Sweida, Michael Shaw, Andrea Keller, Carole Frick, Bhargav Patel, Bernadette Sobczak, Cinnamon VanPutte, Eric Wrobbel, Cheryl Borowiak, Rony Die

ABSENT:

EXCUSED: David Cluphf

GUESTS:

The meeting was called to order at 2:32 p.m. by Michael Hair, Chair.

I. Announcements

- A. Course Review Committee (CRC) Report – On SharePoint
- B. Graduate Committee on Assessment (CGOA) Report – On SharePoint
- C. Enrollment Management Report
 - i. Jim Monahan let the Council know that admittance numbers are continuing in the same pattern they have been, domestic applications have been down and international applications have been up. Jim also described a social media connection they have been using called Unibuddy that is mainly for international students. They are working towards implementing it for domestic students also.
 - ii. Graduate Admissions hosted a webinar recently that had over 700 participants, most of them potential international students. The main questions they had were about scholarships and assistantships.
 - iii. Jim mentioned the struggles there had been with the CGA process this year due to the influx of international applicants.
 - iv. A Council member asked if there was a date set for a spring open house. Jim replied that there may not be a spring open house this year, however, if a department would like one of their own there could be an open house on a department basis.
 - v. Jill Smucker brought up the problems there had been with the CGA application process from the Graduate School perspective. There had been a 300% increase in CGA applications. She is in discussions on restructuring the faculty mentor process to lessen the burden on faculty members. Jill also let the Council know that the CGA recipients will be announced in March.

D. Student Affairs Announcements

- i. Rony Die let the Council know that Counseling Services has a new interim director, Courtney Boddie, who had been with the University previously. There is also an external review of their staffing before more staffing choices are made.
- ii. The search for a new Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs should be re-starting soon. The staffing issues they are currently experiencing could cause slow movement with office inquiries.

E. International Affairs Announcements

- i. Cheryl Borowiak let the Council know that her office is working on more programs to support international students. They conducted a winter clothing drive where over 100 students participated and over 500 clothing items were given out. There is a trip planned in March to a St. Louis soccer game. They are planning one large event every semester and a smaller event every month.

F. Graduate School Announcements

- i. Liz Cali let the Council know about an initiative the Graduate School has been working on to increase visibility of faculty research and scholarship, to recognize the work faculty have been doing, and inspire collaboration. She is working to expand the resources that would support faculty success, particularly with publications.
- ii. Liz has also been working with the library to create a lib guide for faculty as they pursue publication opportunities. This guide will be one part of a multi-pronged approach to support faculty members in getting published. The guide will serve as a tool and will include lists of high impact journals and ways for faculty to identify other journals. The guide will also include support on finding some of the basics on preparing book proposals and querying journals.
- iii. Andrea Keller let the Council know that the new Vice Chancellor for University Advancement, Connie Collins, started in January and they have been bringing her up to speed.
- iv. Jerry Weinberg informed the Council about a project post-award and Carrie Butts-Wilmsmeyer have been working on to create a PI dashboard. The dashboard helps grant PI's to track their budgets. It has been in the testing phase for awhile and is expected to roll out soon. It was asked if a notification will be sent to faculty and staff about the dashboard and Jerry responded that every PI will get a message about it.

G. Other Announcements

- i. Therese Dickman gave the Council an update on the SIUE author publications they have been gathering. She requested that council members let her know if they are aware of any SIUE author publications. This collection will be on the first floor of the library.

II. Approval of Minutes of December 14, 2023

The minutes were approved with no changes.

III. Public Comments – None

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

- A. GR2324-12: Promotion Policy for Research Center Research Faculty
- B. GR2324-13: 1M3: Policy on Biohazardous Material Use

The Chair of ERP, Cinnamon VanPutte, summarized the changes to GR2324-12 and GR2324-13. In the first one, language about feedback from other centers was corrected. The operating papers for the second policy were modified to reflect the IBC operating papers. Some of the Policy on Biohazardous Material Use language was moved to the IBC papers.

The Council accepted the ERP Committee report with no changes or opposition.

V. Report of the Programs Committee

- A. PBC in Global Health – Moratorium Request
- B. PharmD Abbreviated Program Review

Eric Wrobbel reviewed the Programs Committee report items on behalf of the Programs Committee chair. The moratorium for the Global Health PBC had been requested by the program because they had not had enough faculty to launch the program. The committee had approved the request once the language about the type of faculty member they could hire to launch the program was modified from visiting professor to faculty member.

Regarding the PharmD Abbreviated Program Review, the committee had agreed that the program is below capacity due to enrollment but that low enrollment is due to no fault of their own. There is a trend in Pharmacy schools that explains the low enrollment. The committee agreed that the program needs intervention but they are in good standing.

The Council accepted the Programs Committee report with no changes or opposition.

VI. Graduate Course Review Committee Course Retention Recommendations

- A. Michael Hair reviewed the recommendations from the Course Review Committee about the retention of MUS 472A, MUS 472B, and CS 548. The details of the Course Review Committee's recommendations are available on SharePoint. He drew the Council's attention to language in the recommendation of retaining the courses "if staffing permits".
- B. He also noted that CS 548 is a cybersecurity course that is planned to go live in the fall. Jerry Weinberg added that hiring has not been easy for cybersecurity so it may not be possible to offer the course in the fall. A council member asked why hiring faculty members is so difficult and Jerry responded that it is due to limited number of qualified applicants and competition with other cybersecurity programs.

The Council accepted the Course Review Committee Course Retention Recommendations with no changes or opposition.

VII. Continuing Business- APR/Dean of the Graduate School Search Update

- A. It was suggested that the Graduate Council agenda should include a regular update about the APR/Dean of the Graduate School search until the hiring process is over. Cinnamon VanPutte gave the Council an update on the search process so far. The committee had met with the Provost and had been given their charge. They had elected Cinnamon and Kevin Tucker as co-chairs of the committee. Their next task is deciding on the posting language and getting the posting out.
- B. A council member asked where the posting would be posted once the committee agreed on it. Cinnamon responded that she was unsure at this point of exactly where it would go, but the committee will not be using a search firm.
- C. Michael Shaw told the Council he is applying for the position and will step out of Graduate Council meetings when discussed.

VIII. New Business

Michael Hair reminded the Council that there will be another Graduate Council meeting that is at 1 PM instead of 2:30 in May. The rest of the meetings for spring 2024 will be at the normal time of 2:30.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.