

GRADUATE COUNCIL

Faculty Senate

MINUTES

Thursday, April 17th, 2025, 2:30 PM

Graduate School Conference Room, RH 2215

And Zoom

PRESENT: Cinnamon VanPutte (Chair), Soondo Kweon, Liz Cali, Carole Frick, Chin-Chuan Wei, Dan Segrist, Adriana Martinez, Jill Smucker, Gloria Sweida, Eric Wrobbel, Bhargav Patel, Andrea Keller, Therese Dickman, Ramana Madupalli, Priscilla Codjoe, Rony Die, James Monahan, Bernadette Sobczak

ABSENT: Cheryl Borowiak

EXCUSED:

GUESTS:

The meeting was called to order at 2:31 p.m. by Cinnamon VanPutte, Chair. The Council voted unanimously that Gloria Sweida could attend via Zoom.

I. Announcements

- A. Course Review Committee (CRC) Report – On Sharepoint
- B. Graduate Committee on Assessment (GCOA) Report – On Sharepoint
- C. Enrollment Management Report

Jim Monahan let the Council know that domestic application numbers for fall are up by 7% from last year and visa approval rates for international applicants are down by 20% from where they were at this time last year. He also let them know that one student had declined an award because of fear of coming to the United States. A Council member asked if there was an update on the international students who had their visa revoked. Jim explained that their information cannot be shared due to privacy reasons but he did give the Council some general guidance for those in a position to advise international students. He strongly recommended that international students stay in touch with International Student & Scholar Services for updated information and if they are considering leaving the country. He clarified that SIUE is trying to help the students as much as possible. Liz Cali added that she had asked the Provost about it and the information she received was the same about being thoughtful with international travel. Jim also added that ISSS had sent a letter out to all international students advising them about their documents and not travelling unless necessary. He also said that ISSS will be expanding their walk-in hours to accommodate meeting with students.

- D. Student Affairs Announcements - None
- E. International Affairs Announcements- None
- F. Graduate School Announcements

- i. Liz Cali let the Council know about the Graduate Faculty Mentor Award that Jill Smucker had initiated where faculty could nominate another graduate faculty member for their outstanding mentoring. The inaugural winner, Valerie Griffin, had been announced and there are plans to continue with the award. She also congratulated Graduate Studies on the recent student symposium and Provost Reception that had taken place.
- ii. Liz let the Council know that there is not an update yet on the recent HLC visit but she did thank everyone for their participation in the visit. She expects there should be preliminary feedback next week.
- iii. Liz confirmed with Council members that phase 1 of the Program Prioritization is now complete and there will not be additions to it. A Council member asked if there had been word on early retirement offers and Liz responded that this is still in negotiation.
- iv. Liz also gave the Council an update on federal funding letting them all know that the status is the same with the University pausing to react until lawsuits are completed.
- v. She also asked for faculty to pass along names of faculty who might be interested in serving on Programs Committee as the committee is short non-Council members.

G. Other Announcements

- i. Therese Dickman wanted the Council members to know about a piano concert the library will be hosting soon that will be announced in the eToday tomorrow. She also let them know that the library is searching for a new instructor and they are accepting applications through May 2nd.
- ii. Cinnamon VanPutte let the Council know that the SIU System Faculty Collaboration Award is still accepting nominations. They will be reviewing applications for the award May 12th and it is acceptable for faculty members to nominate themselves.
- iii. Andrea Keller reminded the Council about One Day, One SIUE on April 24th.
- iv. Jim Monahan also made sure the Council members noticed the Chancellor's announcement about graduate student tuition and fee increases.

II. Approval of Minutes of March 20, 2025

Adriana Martinez motioned to approve the minutes. Carole Frick seconded the motion. The motion carried.

III. Public Comments - None

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

A. GR2425-09: Policy 1L18

Bhargav Patel let the Council know that the committee had approved the revision to the policy that only prior grades of a C or lower are eligible for forgiveness.

V. Report of the Programs Committee

A. Full Program Review: Kinesiology

B. Full Program Review: Educational Administration

Gloria Sweida let the Council know that the Committee had reviewed Kinesiology and Educational Administration and voted that both programs have sustainable enrollment and completion at their present level and are in good standing.

VI. Continuing Business

A. Vote on R&D/ RPAB Candidates

The Council voted and chose candidates to serve on the Research and Development Committee and Research Advisory Board. The following candidates were chosen:

- i. Faith Liebl for the R&D Committee
- ii. Scott Sellnow Richmond for the R&D Committee
- iii. Majid Molki for the R&D Committee
- iv. Nima Lotfi Yagin for RPAB
- v. Marlon Tracey for RPAB
- vi. Sarah Conoyer for RPAB

B. Volunteer for Textbook Advisory Committee

Ramana Madupalli nominated Carole Frick to serve on the Textbook Advisory Committee. Eric Wrobbel seconded the motion. The motion carried.

VII. New Business - None

VIII. Adjournment

Bernadette Sobczak motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:12 PM. Carole Frick seconded the motion. The motion carried.