MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING  
Friday, November 30, 2018 – 3:00 PM  
Robert Scott Small, Room 235

Chair – Godfrey Gibbison, Interim Dean of the Graduate School

Members and Guests Present: Sonya Allen (Parking Services), Emily Beck (LALE), Divya Bhat (OIEP), Annalisa Calini (MATH), Jason Coy (HIST), Mike Duvall (ENGL), Christine Finnan (MTLA), Martin Jones (MATH), Kate Keeney (ARTM), Ron Magnuson (MBA), Renée McCauley (CSIS), Michelle McGrew (Academic Affairs), Bob Mignone (MATH), Sam Norton (GSA), Bob Perkins (TEDU/EHHP), John Peters (SMFT), Craig Plante (MBIO), Silvia Rodriguez Sabater (HISP/LCWA), Emily Rosko (MFA), Camilo Sandoval Leon (GSA), Emily Patton for Susan Simonian (MSCL), Sandy Slater (HIST/CGE), Zachary Stephens (GSA), Laura Turner (EDPA), William Veal (EDMG), Annette Watson (EVSS), Kelley White (EDEC)

GSO Staff Present: Jon Hakkila (Associate Dean), Susan Hallatt (Admissions), Robyn Olejniczak (Student Records)

I. Welcome – the meeting was called to order at 3:03pm.

Godfrey Gibbison (GSO/SPS) announced that the December 14 meeting will be held and will cover graduate assistantships.

II. Approval of the Minutes November 2, 2018 Meeting – unanimous approval

III. New Business

A. Curriculum Proposals

i. English

Sandy Slater (HIST/CGE) presented the proposal to update the prerequisite requirements for one English course. The prerequisite currently prevents MFA students from enrolling themselves in the course. The program made this change to several other courses, but this one was left out by accident which is why it was not included with the previous proposal packet.

The proposal passed unanimously.

ii, iv. Arts Management

Slater (HIST/CGE) and Kate Keeney (ARTM) explained the multitude of changes to the graduate certificate in Arts Management. The current certificate is being terminated and a new one is being proposed to replace it. The certificate is being renamed from Arts Management to Arts and Cultural Management; the certificate hours are also increasing from 12 to 15. The course prefixes/acronyms will also be updated from PUBA to ARCM. The current courses are housed under the Public Administration program and those will be terminated. The five new courses will have the ARCM prefix. The certificate will also move from the School of Humanities and Social Sciences to the School of the Arts. Because arts management is an emphasis area in the MFA and MPA programs, they are also updating their curriculum to include the new ARCM courses. MFA is removing one English literature elective to capture the five new ARCM courses. MPA is terminating their
PUBA arts management courses and updating their electives to include the new ARCM courses. Robyn Olejniczak (GSO) asked how many students are in the current certificate that will need to be taught out. Keeney (ARTM) responded that there are three.

The proposals pass unanimously.

iii. MPA

Slater (HIST/CGE) presented the MPA proposal to update their degree hours from 39 to 33 by removing one core course and one elective. Jon Hakkila (GSO) asked his this reduction in hours might affect the current 4+1 program with Urban Studies and MPA. A representative from the MPA program was not present so the proposal was tabled until the January meeting.

B. Thesis issues – IP grading reminder

Olejniczak (GSO) reminded program directors that the Graduate School has moved towards assigning IP grades to multi-term enrollments such as thesis credits. This will be done between the Graduate School and the Registrar’s office, and it would be helpful for program directors to remind any faculty advisors to not assign grades.

Hakkila (GSO) then presented the group with some of the issues the Graduate School has encountered related to theses. There is inconsistency amongst programs on several fronts: how a thesis is graded (P/F or letter grade), the minimum number of thesis hours required (3, 4, 6), the thesis proposal process, the committee formation process. There is also a question of defining a thesis as it relates to other program exit requirements such as internships, portfolios, capstones, etc. The Graduate School would like to develop some consistency and centralized policies that govern theses, but would like discussion and input from program directors. Mike Duvall (ENGL) asked if the differences in theses might be in part disciplinary. Martin Jones (MATH) suggested the Graduate School develop some uniform policies that the program would then adhere to. Gibbison (GSO/SPS) said a committee will be formed to consider these issues in the spring. Renée McCauley (CSIS), Emily Rosko (MFA), and Craig Plante (MBIO) volunteered to serve.

IV. PhD in Math in Computation – Annalisa Calini and Bob Mignone, Math

Annalisa Calini (MATH) and Bob Mignone (MATH) provided the group with an overview of the PhD proposal in Math in Computation which is working its way through the curriculum process. Mignone stated that the College should be providing the innovative programs for the Lowcountry, not USC or Clemson. Bryn Mawr is a good example of a small liberal arts college with a strong PhD program in math, which it has had for decades. He continued that the program will be structured around research groups that could span undergraduate, graduate, and faculty working on a dissertation. William Veal (EDMG) asked why the program is referring to itself as inexpensive when many PhD programs are actually expensive to run. Mignone (MATH) responded that the program is inexpensive relative to other doctoral programs in the math and sciences that may require labs, high-powered software, etc. The program is only requesting funding for two teaching assistantships (TAs), but there will be faculty course releases with no additional faculty lines. John Peters (SMFT) expressed his concern that there is no request for additional faculty lines and that teaching will be passed on to TAs and adjuncts. He stated that it is possible to maintain a liberal arts identity, but
that requires faculty to teach all course levels, including introductory courses. Olejniczak (GSO) asks what if there is any overlap with the Master’s degree? Calini (MATH) responded that yes, the 600-level courses could have master’s and doctoral students in the same class, as well as a possible undergraduate in the 4+1 program. Gibbison (GSO/SPS said a committee will be formed to consider policy development for the PhD in the spring.

V. Approval of the Fall 2018 Master’s and Graduate Certificate Candidates – unanimous approval

VI. Graduate Student Parking – Sonya Allen, Parking Services

Sonya Allen (Parking Services) attended the meeting to discuss the recent decision by Parking Services and Business Affairs to discontinue the discounted parking rate for graduate, teaching, and research assistants. These students used to be entitled to the reduced parking garage rate that was available to faculty and staff. Allen (Parking Services) said the number of parking spaces and available student parking permits has been greatly reduced over the years: in 2007, there were 1,284 student permits – in 2018, there were 628 permits. Much of the College’s parking spaces are leased from the City of Charleston at a great financial loss and are not guaranteed year to year. In fact, as more space on the peninsula is developed, those spaces are being given to these new properties. She explained that graduate students are already prioritized in the permit assignment process. She also stated that the Parking Services office receives a complaint from a student worker for not being entitled to the same discount, which contributed to the decision to remove the benefit. Jason Coy (HIST) stated that there is a substantial difference between the work of a graduate assistant and that of a student worker; assistantships are merit-based and granted to qualified students. He also noted his concern for the decision making process in this case, as Graduate School leadership was not informed of Business Affairs’ decision to discontinue this benefit. Ron Magnuson (MBA) expressed his concern about the lack of communication to the Graduate School as his program uses the parking discount as a recruiting tool and advertised benefit. Allen (Parking Services) said that some students were using the discount every day which is more expensive than purchasing a regular garage permit, but she could not produce any data on the actual frequency of this. She said the parking discount will not be reinstated. Peters (SMFT) said that the College should rethink the way it manages parking spaces. Each space is considered to belong to an individual. With technological assistance, spots could be shared between multiple people and reduce the number of permits needed. The group recognized that parking is a big issue on campus and we can continue to work towards a solution, but it will be difficult.

VII. Graduate Student Association – Zach Stephens, President

Stephens (GSA) reported that he had a quick follow-up meeting with Sonya and they will set up a meeting to further discuss the parking issues for graduate students. He will also set up a meeting with Facilities to discuss potential housing options for graduate students.

VIII. Announcements, Updates and Reminders – GSO Staff – no comments

IX. For the Good of the Order – no comments

X. Adjournment – the meeting adjourned at 4:49pm