MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
September 18, 2015
3:00 PM, Beatty Center, Room 218

Members Attending: Jon Hakkila, Angela Cozart, Kristin Ashworth, Nenad Radakovic, Karen Chandler, Martin Jones, mutindi ndunda, Craig Plante, Josh Bloodworth, John Peters, Silvia Rodríguez Sabater, Félix Vásquez, Vince Benigni, Jim Kindley, Amanda Ruth-McSwain, and Jo Ann Ewalt

Guests: Penny Aber-Kahn, Divya Bhati, Jimmie Foster, Jr., Godfrey Gibbison, Narayanan Kuthirummal, Brian McGee, David McIntosh, Nancy Muller, Alan Shao, Victoria Vazquez, Marcia White

GSO Staff: Robyn Olejniczak, Susan Hallatt, and Cassandra Foster

I. Welcome and Introductions – Associate Dean Jon Hakkila called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

II. Approval of the Minutes – The minutes of the Aug. 28, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously.

III. SACSCOC Update – Interim Provost Brian McGee and Divya Bhati, Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Planning

Brian McGee, Interim Provost, thanked the graduate program directors for their work on review/assessment models. He added that program directors will now need to turn their attention to providing greater clarity for standard 3.6.1. as well as reviewing the draft course renumbering policy and approving program-specific criteria for type 1 and type 2 graduate faculty. He noted that credentialing for graduate faculty would be at the program level and not at the department level, as stipulated by SACSCOC. He asked that graduate council members contact him directly with questions about these policies.

Provost McGee also talked about putting together Graduate School representatives with representatives from the North Campus and Lowcountry Graduate Center to clarify details on non-credit programs.

Additionally, he praised the work of everyone who had a hand in developing the MFA in Creative Writing, the first terminal degree in the Graduate School of the University of Charleston, S.C. He called it a smart and distinctive program, and “it’s a good match for who we are institutionally, and who we are as a community.”

Divya Bhati, Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Planning, talked about the reaffirmation process and timeline
(submit materials by September 2016, on-site team visit is March 2017, and final SACSCOC is report received in December 2017). She expressed concerns about certain standards not being met, specifically, showing data on 2-3 years of outcomes, examples on student learning and how programs are using data to change student learning. She said that directors need to have multiple measures to assess these outcomes and they need to demonstrate alignment with the program-specific mission. Provost McGee added that almost no one is closing the loop in this way.

IV. **Update from the Faculty Committee on Graduate Education, Continuing Education, and Special Programs** – Jo Ann Ewalt

Jo Ann Ewalt, Chair of the Faculty Committee on Graduate Education, Continuing Education and Special Programs proposed two hands-on workshops for developing graduate program outcomes and performing assessment. These workshops would be done in conjunction with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Planning. The first workshop, she said, would be focused on the planning stage and how to identify program learning outcomes, while the second workshop would be analyzing the results and closing the loop.

She added that graduate program directors will need to list their programmatic outcomes in the Graduate Catalog beginning in fall 2016. Dean Amy McCandless will be sending reminders before the end of the semester.

V. **ELI Conditional Admits for International Students** – Jimmie Foster, Jr., Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid, and David McIntosh, English Language Institute (ELI)

Jimmie Foster, Jr., Assistant Vice President for Admissions & Financial Aid, and David McIntosh, English Language Institute Director, talked to program directors about developing program-specific conditional admission letters for international students who are eligible for admission in every way except for their English. The two talked about students starting in ELI and transitioning into a graduate program after successful completion (with a passing score) of the ELI course(s).

VI. **Recap of Spring 2015 Advertising Campaign** – Marcia White, Division of Marketing and Communications

Marcia White, College Marketing Senior Director, provided a detailed handout with the strategies, budget, and results for a recent graduate school marketing campaign (for the new programs of Cybersecurity and Child Life) done through Pandora Radio and Google AdWords. The Division of Marketing and Communications recommended doing these types of online advertising and they developed customized landing webpages for the two
programs and traffic to those pages yielded good results: 1) M.S. in Child Life – program director received 6 phone calls inquiring about the degree; and 2) Certificate in Cybersecurity – 14 short online forms gauging interest in the program were completed and sent onto the program director. Marketing further encourages graduate program directors to reach out to them if they are interested in doing individual campaigns such as these.

VII. Update from the Graduate Student Association – Joshua Bloodworth

Joshua Bloodworth, the president of the Graduate Student Association, reported that the group’s first meeting featured a good discussion among graduate students. The group was to host its first social event of the fall semester later this evening (Sept. 18) at the Bay Street Biergarten. Josh also communicated that his meeting with President Glenn McConnell was productive and he talked with the President about three important issues for graduate students: 1) assistantships and scholarships; 2) parking for graduate students; and, 3) visibility of graduate students.

VIII. Announcements, Updates and Reminders – Jon Hakkila

Dinner with the Dean dates for the fall semester are Thursday, Oct. 1, and Monday, Nov. 9, and will be held from 5:30-7 p.m. in Tate Center, Room 202.

This fall UCSC will host the second annual 3MT® Three-Minute Thesis Competition for graduate students. This year’s event will be on Thursday, Oct. 29 from 3-5 p.m. in Stern Center, Rooms 205 and 201. The deadline to submit applications to participate in this event is Oct. 22.

IX. For the Good of the Order

Nancy Muller, Director and Associate Dean of the Lowcountry Graduate Center (LGC), announced upcoming events at the north campus: 1) information session on graduate engineering on Sept. 28; 2) manufacturing career expo on Sept. 30; and, 3) Begin with Books program to announce its expansion into North Charleston at an event on Oct. 1.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

The next Graduate Council meeting will be Friday, Oct. 16 at 3 p.m. in Beatty 216.