MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING  
Friday, February 19, 2021 – 3:00 PM  
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Chair – Gibbs Knotts, Interim Dean of the Graduate School

Members Present: Emily Beck (LALE/ESOL), Vince Benigni (COMM/HSS), Brooke Blosser (GSA), Karen Chandler (ARCM), Roger Daniels (ACCY), Mark Del Mastro (AA), Grant Gilmore (CPAD), Gerald Gordon (URBP), Melissa Hughes (BIOL/SSM), Alex Kasman (MASC), Kate Keeney (ARTM/SOTA), mutindi ndunda (TEDU/EHHP), John Peters (SMFT), Craig Plante (MBIO), Susan Simonian (MSCL), Emily Skinner (MTLA), Sandy Slater (CGE), Jacob Steere-Williams (HIST), Laura Turner (EDPA), Anton Vander Zee (ENGL), Annette Watson (ENSS), Kelley White (EDEC)

Guests Present: Mary Bergstrom (RO), Seaton Brown (MBA), Franklin Czwazka (RO), Julie Dahl (RO), Lucy Davis (ENSS), Jerry Mackeldon (RO), Nancy Muller (LGC), Norma Salcedo (MBIO), Fran Welch (EHHP)

GSO Staff Present: Laura Everett (Recruitment & Marketing), Jon Hakkila (Associate Dean), Susan Hallatt (Admissions), Robyn Olejniczak (Student Records), Erica Shirley (Admissions & Support Services)

I. Welcome – the meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm.

Gibbs Knotts (HSS/GSO) reported that in his role as Interim Dean, he submitted estimated enrollment growth of 10% to Business Affairs upon their request. Fran Welch (EHHP) provided an update on the internal search for a new dean. She stated that the committee interviewed five candidates and selected three as finalists. The survey responses and forum participation data will be shared with the Provost, who is scheduling interviews with the finalists.

II. Approval of the Minutes January 22, 2021 Meeting – unanimous approval

III. Curriculum Proposals – Sandy Slater, CGE

A. New course: INFM 530 – business analytics fundamentals

B. New course: INFM 532 – business analytics applications

Sandy Slater (CGE) clarified that these courses belong to a program proposal which is not yet approved. The proposals passed unanimously without discussion.

IV. Accelerated Programs – Gibbs Knotts and Robyn Olejniczak, GSO

Knotts (HSS/GSO) updated the group that the Curriculog form to propose an accelerated program was launched, though he recognized that the deadline to submit this cycle was very short. One program did manage to submit a proposal within that window, and it is moving through the curricular process. Some other programs expressed interest but were not able to make the deadline. Robyn Olejniczak (GSO) encouraged those interested in putting together a proposal should reach out to the Graduate School as staff can provide guidance and answer questions.

V. Graduate Education Week – Laura Everett, GSO

Laura Everett (GSO) announced that the Graduate School will again host its Graduate Education Week during the week of March 29. There will be three events during this week: a student and
alumni panel on Tuesday, a program director and graduate faculty panel on Wednesday, and the poster session on Thursday. All these events will be conducted virtually as in-person events are still restricted due to the pandemic. Everett (GSO) encouraged individual programs to develop and host their own events during this week. She also emphasized that this program is marketed to our current undergraduates to recruit them into our graduate programs.

VI. Graduate Student Association – Brooke Blosser, President

Brooke Blosser (GSA) reported that the GSA will offer several professional development opportunities during the semester, as well as a social trip to the SC Aquarium. She asked that program directors continue to submit students to be highlighted in the GSA newsletter. Knotts (HSS/GSO) noted that Blosser is serving as one of two graduate students on strategic plan committees.

VII. Announcements, Updates, and Reminders – GSO Staff

Jon Hakkila (GSO) provided a short update on the Perseverance vehicle that landed on Mars. There were no updates from the Graduate School staff.

VIII. For the Good of the Order

Laura Turner (EDPA) asked about the status of the College’s new website design since Marketing presented at a Graduate Council meeting last academic year. Everett (GSO) responded that the Wordpress site has been scraped and the College will stick with the Cascade software currently being used. There are still plans to update much of the content and provide an engaging interface.

IX. Adjournment – the meeting adjourned at 3:29pm