MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
Friday, January 27, 2023 – 3:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

Chair – Kameelah Martin, Dean of the Graduate School

Members Present: Adem Ali (ENSS), Emily Beck (LALE/ESOL), Keonya Booker (GSO), Mike Braswell (ACCY), Mark Del Mastro (AA), Navid Hashemi (DATA), Kate Keeney (ARCM), Brian Lanahan (EDEL), Mike Lee (MCOM), Ellie Lovellette (CSIS), Ron Magnuson (MBA), Will McCorkle (MTLA), Purushottam Meena (SCIM/SOB), Shawn Morrison (CGE), Matt Nowlin (MPA), John Peters (SMFE), Craig Plante (MBIO), Susan Simonian (MSCL), Jacob Steere-Williams (HIST), Laura Turner (EDPA), Anton Vander Zee (ENGL), Tony Varallo (MFA), Joseph Weyers (HISP/LCWA)

Guests Present: Divya Bhati (OIE), Seaton Brown (MBA), Tom Buchheit (RO), Jessica Carter (LGC), Gibbs Knotts (HSS), Jerry Mackeldon (RO), Aimée Pfeifer (Registrar), Norma Salcedo (MBIO), Paul Schwager (SOB)

GSO Staff Present: Susan Hallatt (Admissions), Robyn Olejniczak (Assistant Dean), Erica Shirley (Admin Coordinator)

I. Welcome – the meeting was called to order at 3:01pm

II. Approval of the Minutes December 16, 2022 Meeting – unanimous approval

III. Curriculum Proposals – Shawn Morrison, CGE

A. Accountancy, MS
   i. ACCT 507 Data Analytics and Accounting Information Systems: course title change, course description change

   The proposal passed unanimously without discussion.

B. Business Administration, MBA
   i. MBAD 523 Customer Experience Design in a Digitalized World: new course
   ii. MBAD 599 Independent Study: new course
   iii. Program Change: add course to marketing emphasis area requirement (MBAD 523), add course to program (MBAD 599)

   The proposals passed unanimously without discussion.

C. Communication, MA
   i. Admissions Change: remove GRE

   The proposal passed unanimously without discussion.

D. Creative Writing, MFA
   i. Program Change: reduce degree hours from 39 to 36; reduce/remove literature requirement, add courses to electives (ENGL 587, ENGL 588)

   The proposal passed unanimously without discussion.
E. English, MA
   i. ENGL 517 ST in Literature: course change (remove repeatability limits)
   ii. ENGL 550 ST in Composition or Language: course change (remove repeatability limits)
   iii. ENGL 573 ST in African American Literature: course change (remove repeatability limits)
   iv. ENGL 574 ST in British Literature Before 1800: course change (remove repeatability limits)
   v. ENGL 575 ST in British Literature After 1800: course change (remove repeatability limits)
   vi. ENGL 576 ST in American Literature: course change (remove repeatability limits)
   vii. ENGL 577 Proseminar in Major Literary Themes: course change (remove pre-req, co-req)
   viii. ENGL 578 Proseminar in Major Literary Genres: course change (remove pre-req, co-req)
   ix. ENGL 587 Proseminar in Major Authors: new course, cross-list with ENGL 487
   x. ENGL 588 Proseminar in Cultural Studies: new course, cross-list with ENGL 488
   xi. Program Change: add courses to electives (ENGL 569, ENGL 587, ENGL 588)
   xii. Admissions Changes: remove GRE, add statement of goals for non-degree applicants

   The proposals passed unanimously without discussion.

F. Public Administration, MPA
   i. Program Change: clarifying language for internship requirement

   The proposal passed unanimously without discussion.

IV. Graduate Awards Planning Committee Update – Robyn Olejniczak, Graduate School

Robyn Olejniczak (GSO) shared the draft award criteria created by the planning committee. The committee sought feedback from the group regarding the scope of the criteria, meaning should a nominee’s contributions in leadership, engagement, or service be limited to the College of Charleston community. Adem Ali (ENSS) suggested expanding the scope to include adjacent communities or populations. Olejniczak (GSO) also solicited participants for the awards review committee. Jacob Steere-Williams (HIST), Susan Simonian (MSCL), and Kate Keeney (ARCM) volunteered. Martin (GSO) concluded that the goal is to host the awards ceremony Thursday evening prior to commencement.

V. Announcements, Updates, and Reminders – GSO Staff

Martin (GSO) announced that there is a new director of the Lowcountry Graduate Center, Jessica Carter. She also reminded the group that the Graduate School will continue to host its own Poster Session this semester and encourage students to also participate in the EXPO; a date has not yet been set for the Poster Session. Martin (GSO) inquired whether programs would be interested in hosting an accepted student event. Ron Magnuson (MBA) responded that it might be difficult to convince accepted students from out-of-state to travel for that kind of event, but offering experiences to yield students is a good idea. Brown (MBA) wondered if participating in the undergraduate accepted students weekend could be an opportunity to recruit potential graduate students. Martin (GSO) wondered if programs with a more local audience, like education, might find this useful; several education program directors present responded no. Jacob Steere-Williams (HIST) added that History is piloting some events with this purpose. Anton Vander Zee (ENGL) noted that program or department initiatives are likely more relevant than those by the Graduate School.
Martin (GSO) also announced that there will two forthcoming calls to serve on task forces or committees, one to review and update the guidelines for accelerated programs, and one to review and update the assistantship policy. The latter has not been updated since 2012 and likely needs some revisions for doctoral programs. Laura Turner (EDPA) and Ellie Lovellette (CSIS) volunteered for the accelerated program task force. Finally, Martin (GSO) discussed an issue regarding academic dismissal and readmission. Currently, there is no limit to the number of times a student can be academically dismissed and readmitted. While a program’s admissions committee can decide whether to readmit a student, a limit may be reasonable. Magnuson (MBA) thought a program may be the best judge of a readmission situation. Emily Beck (LALE/ESOL) wondered what would be compelling to readmit a student who had been academically dismissed more than once. She also inquired whether the Graduate School is notified of FAST submissions or actions.

Keonya Booker (GSO) announced that GSA elections will not be held this spring as too few students submitted themselves for candidacy. She asked if programs could solicit information from their students about the lack of interest in serving in these roles. Turner (EDPA) asked how the Graduate School manage issues of inclusion; Booker (GSO) responded that the GSA is meant to serve this purpose. Turner (EDPA) suggested that each school or program have one student representative serve as an ombudsman.

Olejniczak (GSO) noted that the new applicant review process does not currently include a mechanism to make a funding decision. She and Susan are working on how to address this for the current admissions cycle.

Susan Hallatt (GSO) announced that she is working on the applicant portal that will hold useful information for newly admitted students. She also noted that changes to a program’s admissions committee cannot be made while the admissions cycle is underway, but can be made during the summer. Martin (GSO) encouraged anyone with issues to reach out and thanked everyone for their patience as the new review process gets off the ground.

Erica Shirley (GSO) asked programs to touch base with their prospective students missing application items as all reminders help. She noted that incomplete applications are mostly missing letters of recommendation.

VI. For the Good of the Order

Magnuson (MBA) noted that three of the five starting players on the men’s basketball team, which is having a great season, are graduate students.

VII. Adjournment – the meeting adjourned at 3:56pm