MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING  
Friday, December 18, 2020 – 2:45 PM  
Virtual Zoom Meeting  

Chair – Godfrey Gibbison, Dean of the Graduate School  

**Members Present:** Emily Beck (LALE/ESOL), Vince Benigni (COMM/HSS), Karen Chandler (ARCM), Roger Daniels (ACCY), Mark Del Mastro (AA), Grant Gilmore (CPAD), Melissa Hughes (BIOL/SSM), Alex Kasman (MASC), Kate Keeney (ARTM/SOTA), Brian Lalahan (EDEL), Mike Lee (MCOM), Jiexiang Li (MASC), Ron Magnuson (MBA), Renée McCauley (CSIS/DATA), Judy Millesen (MPA), mutindi ndunda (TEDU/EHHP), John Peters (SMFT), Craig Plante (MBIO), Emily Rosko (MFA), Susan Simonian (MSCL), Sandy Slater (CGE), Jacob Steere-Williams (HIST), Rafael Teixeira (SCIM/SOB), Laura Turner (EDPA), Anton Vander Zee (ENGL), William Veal (EDMG), Annette Watson (ENSS), Kelley White (EDEC)  

**Guests Present:** Suzanne Austin (AA), Mary Bergstrom (RO), Divya Bhati (OIE), Julie Dahl (RO), Gibbs Knotts (HSS), Nancy Muller (LGC), Normal 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 2:45pm.  

II. **The next Graduate Dean** – Suzanne Austin, Provost  

Suzanne Austin (AA) thanked Fran Welch for chairing the search committee and Gibbs Knotts for serving as interim dean. The search committee has a representative from each school, the Graduate School office, students, and Faculty Senate. The goal is to have a new dean in place by March 1 with the search being fully internal. She continued that graduate education is one of the biggest areas of opportunity on campus; there should be growth in online programs in strategic areas as well as increased visibility among our own undergraduates. The next dean will need to implement the new strategic plan.  

III. **Approval of the Minutes November 20, 2020 Meeting** – unanimous approval  

IV. **Curriculum Proposals** – Sandy Slater, CGE  

A. **Public Administration**  
   i. **Admissions reqs:** remove GRE; reduce letters of recommendation from 3 to 2; remove knowledge of undergraduate statistics  
      
      The proposal passed unanimously without discussion.  

B. **Public Administration**  
   i. **Executive Program termination** – informational  
      
      Gibbs Knotts (HSS) said that it was decided to terminate the MPA’s executive format due to its high cost of faculty and the College’s current budget environment. The school supported this program and it was a difficult decision to make. Nancy Muller (LGC) reminded Knotts that the program received grant funding to develop and launch this program; the three-year report will still need to be submitted. Judy Millesen (MPA) said she was very disappointed with this decision since the
executive format was barely off the ground. Instead of terminating the program, she prefers to reassess the format’s viability each year. Godfrey Gibbison (GSO) suggested that instead of declaring the program terminated, could a program hiatus be more appropriate. It was agreed that the website and prospective student communications would be updated to reflect that the program is not accepted applications at this time. Knotts (HSS) said that students would still have the traditional format available. He added that Judy did a lot of work to develop the program and put funding agreements in place based on an RCM model. Gibbison (GSO) closed by saying that this should not discourage programs from being innovative, this was just beyond the program and College’s control.

V. **2021-2022 Funding Allocation** – Godfrey Gibbison, Graduate School

Gibbison (GSO) shared the Graduate School’s funding allocation for the 2021-2022 admissions cycle. These funds, which include scholarships and graduate assistantships, are intended to be used to recruit new students. Gibbison (GSO) reminded program directors that this allocation is based on the program’s three-year enrollment average as well as Graduate School staff ensuring a program does not sway too heavily in either direction – too few funds or too many funds. The Graduate School also remains cognizant of programs that are growing, programs with enrollment caps, and programs that need additional support. Gibbison (GSO) also added that the Graduate School will continue with the partial abatement model that is being piloted this year.

VI. **New Foundation Scholarship(s)** - Godfrey Gibbison, Graduate School

Gibbison (GSO) announced that some of the North Campus’s foundation funds will be transferred to the Graduate School with the intent of creating scholarships to recruit URM students. Nothing has been finalized, but he has been working on this since the North Campus’s closure. Gibbison (GSO) also plans to create a scholarship model where the funds are matched by the Graduate School and academic school. There will also be a new $5,000/year graduate scholarship offered by Chick-Fil-A; there will be a preference for students in business or science programs.

VII. **Approval of the Fall 2020 Master’s and Graduate Certificate Candidates** – unanimous approval

VIII. **Graduate Student Association** – Brooke Blosser, President

Brooke Blosser was not present at the meeting.

IX. **Announcements, Updates, and Reminders** – GSO Staff

A. Graduate School Fellowship timeline

Robyn Olejniczak (GSO) said that the Graduate School plans to make fellowship announcements much earlier this admissions cycle since the priority deadline is about six weeks earlier than the previous cycle. This means that program directors will need to submit nominations earlier, as well.

Susan Hallatt (GSO) reminded everyone that she has created numerous dashboards in TargetX meant to help programs understand and manage their applicant pool. The Graduate School is constantly communicating with applicants, but prospective students are more likely to remember communicating directly with a program director.
Laura Everett (GSO) reminded everyone that the Graduate School will continue to highlight an alum each month and encouraged program directors to keep submitting names.

X. **For the Good of the Order**

Muller (LGC) reminded the group that the deadline to submit applications for the LGC opportunity funds is February 1, 2021.

Millesen (MPA) thanked Dean Gibbison for his work and leadership, and appreciated his efforts of inclusivity.

XI. **Adjournment** – the meeting adjourned at 3:33pm