MINUTES
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES COUNCIL
FOR RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

MEETING: January 31, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: D. Baker, F. Botelho, E. Choi, A. Daily, D. Downey, W. Duffy, S. Fleming, E. Groenendyk, J. Lariscy, J. McCutcheon, A. Mickelson, I. Ortega-Santos, T. Roche, H. Sable, C. Santo, X. Shen, O. Skalli, J. Topinka,

MEMBERS ABSENT: E. Delavega

PROXY: Keri Brondo

Dr. Kreuz announced that the Council will continue with remote meetings until COVID community case rates fall appreciably. If we return to face-to-face meetings, they will be held in the UC Senate chamber, which will allow members to socially distance.

R. Kreuz welcomed a new member to the Council: Helen Sable (PSYC), replacing Bob Cohen. He also welcomed back four returning members: Scott Fleming (COMP) taking over from Deepak Venugopal; Charlie Santo (PLAN) back from his PDA and taking over from Andrew Guthrie; Joseph Lariscy (SOCI) also back from his PDA and taking over from Jenni Loftus; and Ivan Ortega-Santos (WLL), a former Council member, who is replacing Diana Ruggiero.

R. Kreuz also welcomed a former Council member serving as a proxy today: Keri Brondo (ANTH), filling in for Kathryn Hicks.

1. Approval of the minutes from the November 1, 2021, Council meeting

R. Kreuz asked for corrections or additions to the minutes of the November 1 meeting. E. Choi noted that "Research" was left out of CERI in the list of departments permanently dropping the GRE requirement.

J. Topinka made a motion to approve the minutes with the understanding the correction would be made. X. Shen seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

2. Report from the December 10, 2021, and January 28, 2022, University Council for Graduate Studies meetings

R. Kreuz provided a summary from the two meetings:

    a) CAS curriculum changes approved. At the December 10th meeting of the UCGS, R. Kreuz presented the College's curriculum changes, and they were unanimously approved.

The Registrar's office will lock down and publish the Graduate Catalog by March.

At last week's meeting, the UCGS approved the curriculum changes for the six remaining colleges: Fogelman College of Business, the Herff College of Engineering, the Kemmons Wilson School of Hospitality and Resort Management, Communication Sciences and Disorders, the College of Education, and the School of Public Health.

b) Graduate enrollment update. Brian Meredith reported that the Graduate School had a 2.7% increase in the fall, YOY. International student enrollment was up 47% YOY in the fall.

Census day for Spring 2022 is tomorrow (day 14), but as of today, graduate enrollment is up 2.1% YOY. Given that undergraduate enrollment is down 3.5%, it's clear that our graduate programs are helping to offset the changes in enrollment trends at the undergraduate level.

For the spring, the Graduate School has a 16% increase in international students, YOY, from 425 to 492. Half of these students are from India, and most are enrolling in STEM fields. Currently, Dean Poston is in India on another recruitment trip.

The new MS in Data Science, which is less than a year old, has 71 students enrolled, so it's already a great success.

c) Director of Graduate Student Services position. In December, we were informed that the person Dean Poston hired to take over from Jim Kierulff decided to take another job, so the position was rerun in WorkForUM. The search committee will be conducting Zoom interviews with seven finalists later this week. Jim Kierulff has agreed to stay on for a month after we hire the new person to train them.

d) New application system. The university has acquired a new CRM, or customer relationship management system, called Slate. It's used by many R1 schools to track students across their entire academic journey: from initial contact to application to matriculation, graduation, and into their status as alumni of the institution. It takes data directly out of Banner and provides a comprehensive dashboard for each student.

The system was acquired and is being built out for the undergraduate students, but it can handle graduate applications as well. As a result, the university decided to use it for that purpose as well, as it will put all of our student records into one system.

This means that graduate programs will be transitioning to the new system in the summer of 2023. Until then, we'll be using WebAdmit, but the next application cycle, 22-23, will be the last one using the current system.

The hard work of putting an online system in place was accomplished when the Graduate School adopted WebAdmit, and the University's IT staff will port everything that was in WebAdmit into Slate.

Cons:

R. Kreuz pointed out we had just finished getting the kinks worked out of WebAdmit, and now we're changing systems again. This is far from ideal, but the decision was made centrally and, from what he can gather, was imposed on the Graduate School.

The other major con is that Slate doesn't deal with transcripts at all. The Graduate School will have to process all of them. This may be an improvement, since transcript issues were the biggest problem with WebAdmit, with transcripts being sent to the University as opposed to Liaison's' offices in Watertown, Massachusetts.

Pros:

The entire university will be using a single system, and IT issues will be handled centrally, as opposed to by GAs hired by the Graduate School. This will provide more robust and consistent support than the Graduate School was able to provide.

If a graduate applicant is one of our own undergraduates, Slate will automatically populate their information into their application.

Finally, there also won't be any "quadrants" or "cycles" to deal with; since Slate is student-centered, some of the quirks of WebAdmit will go away.

3. New business

a) Approval of catalog changes for the Urban Affairs PhD program

https://memphis.curriculog.com/agenda:287/form

D. Downey provided a brief summary of the need to include a program description for the Urban Affairs program in the Graduate Catalog.

C. Santo made a motion to approve the catalog change. E. Groenendyk seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

E. Groenendyk made a motion to adjourn the meeting. A. Mickelson seconded the motion,, and all voted in favor.

Prepared by T. Tardugno from notes proved by R. Kreuz and edited by R. Kreuz.