

Graduate Faculty Senate

Meeting Minutes

October 29, 2024, 10:30am - noon

S203 Memorial Union

Attending: Chi-Ren Shyu, Erika Boerman, Matt Easter, David Beversdorf, Maria Fidalgo, Jacqueline Limberg, Leslie Lyons, Julie Miller, Jessica Osaze, Kuntara Pukthuanthong, Abed Rabbani, Jeni Hart, Jeff Wood, Ashley Siebenaler, Enid Schatz

1. Call to order at approximately 10:30am
2. Approval of minutes of September 2024 meeting
 - a. Minutes not uploaded to Canvas site, so will approve them at next meeting
3. Acceptance of the agenda
 - a. Accepted unanimously
4. Special business #1 for the day: Interim Vice President Election
 - a. One candidate: Erin Robinson
 - b. Open to taking the VP position with the possibility of moving into the President position in the future.
 - c. Disposition: Approved unanimously.
6. Special business #2 for the day: Graduate Advising for College of Business – Prof. Marsha L. Richins, College of Business
 - a. Also attending Shannon Ferguson (Director of Masters of Accounting program) and Ryan Murray (Director of MBA program)
 - b. There are about 200 admitted students each year in the MAcc program and about 200-250 students at any given time in the MBA program.
 - c. The college utilizes professional advisors to help them navigate the complexities of the degree.
 - d. There is a Graduate School requirement that the advisor for every master's student be a member of the graduate faculty. COB is

requesting that the faculty advisor for all MAcc students be Shannon Ferguson who is a member of grad faculty, but also allow the use of the staff advisors whom Shannon supervises. All faculty are highly involved with students especially in the certificate programs which masters students often pursue in addition to the MAcc or MBA.

- e. Discussion ensued regarding identifying the faculty advisor when it comes to graduation as the milestone forms require it and it also shows up in the commencement bulletin. Additionally there is great difficulty in networking as a new professional when your advisor is a staff person who is not producing scholarship, so there needs to be a a faculty advisor in the area that the student is studying in. Faculty advisors are not prepared to give the same strategic advice regarding coursework, etc., which is why they have staff advisors, but in all other academic aspects, they are available to students.
 - f. Discussion tabled until next meeting.
7. Committee Reports:
- a. Academic Affairs Committee – Prof. Julie Miller, chair
 - i. Course Approvals – Appendix I
 - 1. Changes to existing (edited) and new (added) courses
 - a. 47 courses
 - b. Recommendation from the AAC to approve.
 - c. Disposition: Approved unanimously.
 - ii. Program Approvals – Appendix II
 - 1. New programs presented on 9/25/2024
 - a. PhD in Artificial Intelligence
 - i. Disposition: Approved unanimously
 - b. Graduate Certificate in Human Resources
 - i. Disposition: Approved unanimously
 - 2. Edited programs
 - a. Disposition: Approved unanimously
 - b. Presentation of New Program Proposals – Appendix III
 - i. MEd in Learning, Teaching, and Curriculum with an Emphasis in Learning Technologies – SISLT (Samuel Otten, Chair of Learning, Teaching, and Curriculum on behalf of Rose Marra)
 - 1. LTC has a very active master’s program - 100% online, 9 emphasis areas, and the emphasis in Learning Technologies would be a new program that appeals to teachers across the country who are wanting to enhance their teaching, pedagogical skills, and becoming an expert educator.

2. Important to work together instead of either department trying to pursue it separately. SISLT does have a MS in Technology in Schools but practicing teachers are not looking to get a MS degree. They're looking to get MEd degrees.
- c. Fellowships and Awards Committee – Prof. John Kerns, chair
 - i. Gearing up for review of distinguished thesis, distinguished dissertation, and outstanding graduate faculty mentor.
 - ii. Will take the month of November to review and have selections by the end of November.
- d. Policy Subcommittee – Prof. Maria Fidalgo, chair
 - i. Grad Status A automatic for any newly hired ranked faculty member (voting item)
 1. Exact wording: “All newly hired ranked faculty with terminal degrees, tenure track and non tenure track, in units that offer graduate programs will automatically be granted graduate faculty status A. Otherwise application must be submitted to the graduate school for evaluation.”
 2. Recommendation of committee is to accept the policy.
 3. Disposition: Approved unanimously.
 - ii. Inconsistency of Grad Status B in chairing thesis/dissertation committee (bylaw revision proposal)
 1. Discussion ensued regarding the bylaw and the policy, how they are inconsistent with one another and why the bylaw and not the policy should be changed.
 2. Exact wording of the proposed bylaw changed will be distributed 2 weeks before the next meeting for review so that we can vote at the November meeting.
 - iii. Chair's/Director's role on advisor selection and faculty workload policies (Discussion) Appendix IV
 1. Tabled until next meeting.
8. Report: Graduate Professional Council – Ms. Jessica Osaze, GPC Representative
 - a. Leasing difficulties with landlords in Columbia, since leases often start on the 15th of August but graduate students often arrive closer to the 1st of August and with no housing available till mid-month it leaves them homeless. There is off-campus housing and student life

who could help but largely the difficulty is with private landlords and this is a national problem.

9. Report: Graduate School – Prof. Jeni Hart, Dean of Graduate School and Vice Provost for Graduate Studies
 - a. Changes in graduate assistantship titles will be happening next academic year. It's official.
 - b. Mock site visit - we have no idea what the visitor will want to talk about and who they will want to talk to, so be prepared and please attend what stakeholder meetings that you can.
10. Other new business
 - a. No other new business.
11. Resolutions
 - a. No resolutions.
12. Announcements
 - a. No announcements.
13. Adjournment
 - a. Meeting adjourned at approximately noon.