



## Graduate Council Meeting – Minutes

November 27, 2017

3:30 – 5:00 pm

Frost Commons

Meeting called to order – 3:30 pm

Present: Chris Benedetti, Eric Hoffman (scribe), Jason Swift, Marcel Lebrun, Mardie Burckes-Miller, Meg Petersen, Pam Harland, Robin Hausher, Cheryl Coker, Stacey Curdie, Trish Lindberg, Gail Mears, Heather Doherty, June Hammond-Rowan, Linda Carrier (facilitator), Christie Sweeney (*NB: Several members were unable to attend due to an Education and Democracy Cluster meeting that was scheduled.*)

- I. Minutes of October 23, 2017 meeting were accepted with one minor correction – June Hammond Rowan to be added to the list of attendees.
- II. Registrar Updates
  - It was requested that the information relating to the dates for Spring term and parts of terms be available by January 15 for course scheduling purposes. Registrar's office reported that they are not expecting any significant changes from Spring 2017 and that they would have those dates available soon (by January 15<sup>th</sup>).
  - A request has been made by Jason Moran in admissions to meet with Linda to discuss the "B or better" conditional admissions category. Eric Hoffman reported that this was a discussion topic at a Graduate Policy and Bylaws committee meeting in Spring 2017. A related issue is the warning/probation/severance policy. Discussion was had, facilitated by those directly involved last year, around cumulative GPA vs program GPA and that a draft graduate warning/severance policy exists. The draft policy will be presented at the next meeting and Jason Moran will be invited to attend.
- III. Old Business: Integrating into clusters.
  - In the October meeting the Council discussed preparing a white paper around issues related to the integration of graduate programs with the universities cluster reorganization.
  - A significant amount of discussion among the attendees came up with these additional topics for the white paper:
    - Graduate assistantships

- Course scheduling – to be under Curriculum/Academic Affairs
- Differentiation between on-campus residential and off-campus non-residential graduate students.
- Program accreditation or other curriculum requirements of grad programs
- Issue related to 3+2 and 4+1 programs might not appropriate for grad programs that require real-world experience for admissions.
- Highlighting the positives that graduate students can bring to clusters as mentors and role models. Examples might include:
  - Ability to offer and also take professional training workshops (through Center for Transformation?). A needs assessment should be done to see what grad students can offer and what they might be interested in taking.
  - Graduate students can provide “free marketing” – e.g. “look at the cool projects happening at PSU” – “look at the wonderful professionals contributing to the fields”.
  - Helping UGs with people skills
- Caution was urged about integration of grad into clusters related to some clusters not even being defined yet and that within some clusters grad programs are a clear minority of programs.
- Graduate student learning should be relevant. We should develop a list of integrated cluster competencies for students at the graduate level.
- Having a table to solicit input and feedback at the January Jamboree was discussed (Linda Carrier will inquire).
- Curricular integration versus becoming “project based” could be an issue for graduate students (see discussion of full-time vs part-time).

The Council agreed that we should try to have this white paper out by the end of January. A google doc will be shared with the group and people can add to it. Then a small group of people will edit the document (that small group TBD).

#### IV. Academic Affairs Updates – Gail Mears

- URI – clusters to look at programs and examine for synergies and opportunities and exercise in innovation. Program’s might:
  - Look at pathways from UG to GR (4+1, 3+2)
  - Focus recruitment and retention of full-time and part-time “regular” students vs part-time “irregular” students.
  - The URI report is for ideas (1-2 pg) – not a long narrative.
  - This report is due on March 30.
  - Anticipate programs being innovative but mostly with existing resources although some new resources may be requested/approved. A cross-cluster group may examine these.
- Council members asked several questions and there was some significant discussion that included:

- Will data provided be improved over previous URSA data? Gail suggested that there are still “difficulties” with graduate program data. There was a long discussion of the many “problems” with the URSA data.
  - How is budgeting and accounting being done right now?
  - There was discussion of the “marketing data” and whether the number of students in program is true reflection of the “market” since it’s not clear if effective marketing of graduate programs has occurred or is occurring.
  - Concord – some prime space (Classroom 5 and 6 and other office space) is going back to the landlord to be rented to a Doctor’s office. The Principals Association will be temporarily moved to other space and then will leave in February. PSU will continue to staff the office when there are classes and events. (See President’s monthly report from November for more details).
  - Graduation – Thursday night, May 17<sup>th</sup> in All-Well North. Time TBA. Graduate speakers may come from honorary degree recipients and/or Granite State awardees. Suggest that our graduate student representative inquire with students about the student speaker.
- V. Miscellaneous
- It was asked if there was an e-mail distribution list just for graduate students. Consensus among the council was that we should ask for one to be developed so that the faculty and administration can use appropriate messaging for different audiences (GR vs UG).
- VI. Items IV (Transitional Leadership Team) and V (New Business: Website) from the agenda were not discussed.
- VII. Meeting was adjourned at 5:03 PM.