

Montclair State University
MA Counseling Program Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
June 7, 2023 (12:30 - 2:00 PM)

Attendance: Muninder Kaur Ahluwalia & Matthew Shurts (GPCs), Lucille Gesualdi, Benjamin Graziano, Christine Han, Angel Hazim, Gennae Hinson, Dana Levitt, Rose Maire, Nicole Sandas.

Welcome and Introductions

- Co-GPCs, Muninder Kaur Ahluwalia and Matthew Shurts, were introduced
- Acknowledgement and introduction of Lucille Gesualdi (department administrator) and Dana Levitt (chair)
- Introductions of Advisory Board members who were present: Benjamin Graziano, Christine Han, Angel Hazim, Gennae Hinson, Rose Maire, Nicole Sandas

Purpose of the Advisory Board

- GPCs discussed the role of the Board in providing outside perspectives to the Program faculty and staff
- Invited feedback and questions about anything discussed and encouraged recommendations as they saw fit

Division of the College of Education and Human Services

- GPCs shared the split of the college into two new colleges and shared the incoming dean of ours – the College for College for Community Health, Dean Rashid Ahmed.
- College for Education and Engaged Learning – Interim Dean TBD

CACREP Updates

- Chair discussed the transition to 60-credit hour School Counseling Program
- Chair discussed reaccreditation updates

New Personnel

- GPCs shared that two new Tenure-Track Assistant Professors are joining our faculty in fall, Drs. Clewiston Challenger & Bisola Duyile
- We are in the final stages of our search for a Post-doctoral Teaching and Learning Fellow

Admissions Updates

- Student members provided feedback about the Admissions portal – Varied viewpoints on its ease of use – GPCs noted the portal is offered via TGS
- Multiple current students shared that the revised essay focusing on working with marginalized populations was a positive for them as prospective students and stood out compared to prompts from other programs. Also noted it demonstrated the focus on anti-racism/social justice to follow in the Program

MA Program Updates/Initiatives

- GPCs shared counseling programs' Anti-racism Efforts
 - We held a year-long Faculty Speaker Series on Anti-racism, virtually and in person.
 - Suggestion was made to possible link attendance to other courses, possibly for extra credit or integrated into a course as part of a required assignment
 - The Culturally Connected Counselor Newsletter
 - Continued Revision to Program Application process

- Suggestion was made that because there was a desire for students to connect with other students, particularly first semester, that we have a gathering on a Friday or on Wednesday between 3-4 (common hour).
- Instruction
 - All syllabi now include Land acknowledgement and Antiracism statement
 - We are conducting a systematic review syllabi for content and resources
- Professional Development
 - Suggestion of areas that they would like to see professional development include trauma, process additions, clinical supervision (e.g., newer theories; peer supervision groups), connections at conferences, post-covid behavior, community outreach
 - WMS–Perhaps consider linking with existing University-wide social events

Practicum/Internship

- We shared that students would be able to attend practicum orientation prior to the semester before they were ready to enter it.
- Suggestion was shared that access to information earlier and more often would be helpful for students.

Goals For Upcoming Year

- Faculty and staff are developing these today
- Some preliminary areas include:
 - Continue Course Modality Discussion/Develop Guidelines/Policy
 - Draft Strategic Plan Program/Dept Strategic Plan for Social Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
 - Shift to Fully Electronic Tracking of Clinical Hours (e.g., Time to Track)

Items From the Board

- Community outreach
- Educating public about counseling
- Recommendation to focus on improving alumni connections, take advantage of social media
 - Connecting with new College Career Center (involving them with Alumni planning)