



Graduate Council Meeting

Agenda: December 11, 2024
3:30 pm to 5:00 pm
STCT 419

Attendees: CCHL: Amanda Birnbaum, Brad Moorefield, Matt Shurts, Meena Mahadevan, Dana Levitt, CEEL: Erik Jacobson, Kayla O'Donnell, CHSS: Anna Feldman, Tarika Daftary Kapur, Emily Douglas, Dominique Blake, Jessica Brandt, CSAM: Matt Schuler, Hao Liu, Melissa Spigelman, Scott Kight, CART: Scott Richards, Yi Luo, Ronald Sharps SBUS: Rashmi Jain, Vidya Atal, Nicole Koppel, Dejah Ndiya, NURS: Brenda Marshall, TGS: Chris King, Michele Fisher, Kenneth Sumner, Laura Valente, Michael Stuhlmiller, GR Adm: Jennifer O'Sullivan.

- Opening remarks from GC leadership / approval of minutes from November 13th meeting
November minutes approved
- Reports:
 - TGS Report, Ken Sumner
 - Have been meeting with DPDs to discuss enrollment of doctoral programs, would like to establish an enrollment management plan. Want to think about recruitment strategies for doctoral programs and moving students through the programs more efficiently. Would like to better understand the vitality of these programs. What should our correct enrollment and graduation rate be?
 - GC changes to bylaws – better organize and have GC be more influential.
 - Graduate students will shortly be over 5,000 in number, this is a significant constituency on campus. Yet they have unique needs – older, more life complications, faster recruitment and progression cycle. Think of new delivery models and growth models.
 - Ken has accepted a position at another University and will be leaving Montclair in January. Will be Provost and Executive Vice President at Manhattan University working with Fred Bonato (who is currently President). Will continue to work in the background on some projects at Montclair.
 - Stefanie Brachfeld will lead the graduate leadership team upon Ken's departure in January.
 - Montclair is on the trajectory to go to R1 status. We need our doctoral program pipeline of students/graduates to become more consistent to do this.

- Report from the Curriculum Committee, Chair
 - Presentation and vote on the following:
 1. New program proposals to review:
 - a. New degree: MA in Justice Leadership and Innovation; Program Announcement Summary attached as well (Daniela Peterka-Benton)
 - This is an interdisciplinary program that serves criminal and community justice leaders. Ethical leadership is prominent along with innovation in problem solving. Elective credits are truly interdisciplinary. Will be offered online with a low residency component for capstone.
 - New program was approved by GC.
 - b. New certificate: Supply Chain Management (Ozlem Cosgun)
 - c. New concentration: MBA with conc. in Supply Chain Management (Ozlem Cosgun)
 - The certificate and concentration in Supply Chain Management were moved together. They feature practical skills in the supply chain. The new grad certificate goes to the state as an information item, while the new concentration in the MBA is internal at Montclair.
 - Both of these were approved by GC.
 2. Program alteration proposals to review:
 - a. Nomenclature change with curriculum alteration: MA in Social Research and Analysis and related programs (Christopher Donoghue)
 - Change in title from MA in Social Research and Analysis to MA in Social Research and Data Analysis. There is confusion over the old title of the degree among students and employers. This will clarify things. Also, adding a new course as a choice in the core. This will go to the state because of the nomenclature change as a point of information.
 - Approved by graduate council.
 - b. MA in Applied Linguistics (Anna Feldman)
 - Anna talked about this proposal in the last GC meeting.
 - Approved by graduate council.
 3. There are many more curriculum proposals in the pipeline for consideration in January.

- Discussion on “Swing Credits”
 - Current policy for combined programs stipulates a range of swing courses from 6 to 12 credits irrespective of the size of the degree. A swing course is a master’s course that is counted at both the undergraduate and graduate level.
 - A proposal is in the pipeline for a 3+2 program (exercise science and nursing) with 26 swing credits (would represent 36% of the master’s degree). Will likely come to grad council in February. Might want to broaden the policy so that it is a percentage of the program length rather than a fixed number. Did some research last year of other institutions – many of them allow up to 18 credits and one allowed up to 40% of program to be designated as swing credits. One concern is if there are a lot of credits designated as swing, undergraduate students would be taking some graduate level courses in the sophomore year (for a 3+2 program). What type of policy restrictions do we put in place? What preparation is necessary for a graduate level course? What is fair in terms of a percentage? The curriculum committee will discuss this and present a proposal to the GC.

- Report from the Policy Committee, Co-chair (Chris)
 - Yi is working on finalizing the surveys for thesis/dissertation. They should be ready for dissemination soon.
 - What does the policy committee work on? Laura sends ideas to the committee that come up with TGS. Would like to create a Qualtrics survey so that faculty can submit concerns/recommendations to the committee for consideration. Will establish a policy committee specific email that will serve as a form for people to contact policy committee. The policy for repeating thesis extension has been written and will be under consideration at GC for the January meeting. Also talked about forced full time issue – we may need to gather some information on this one. Still exploring this issue.

- Report from the Student Affairs Committee, Chair
 - Amanda presented for Tarika. TGS was awarded funds for grad students to work for hire and develop professional skills, a “project-based consultancy grant”. Will pilot this spring. Students who are already employed by the university are not eligible. Academic and nonacademic units will be given a notification with criteria for projects; TGS will decide which ones will go forward. Student applications will go to the units, who will do the interviews. The TGS will do the matching. Once the project starts there would be onboarding with the TGS along with evaluation at the mid-term and end of the semester (for students and preceptors).

- Question of how many and how much. No stipend would be more than \$5,000. Start with one set amount for this initial pilot to keep it simple. Would give units parameters – a project where you would expect no more than # hours per week for x number of weeks. Have to determine hourly wage. Once this is determined, we can figure out how many positions there will be. Matt suggested that we make this a scholarship so that it is not taxable but that is not feasible.
- Report from Ad Hoc Restructuring Committee, Chair
 - Met for the first time last week. Started some initial discussions about:
 - updating the mission of Grad Council to include student affairs
 - expanding eligibility for representation (so that staff could be elected for up to one of the 3 positions per college/school)
 - reimagining the executive committee to foster more communication between the committees (include committee chairs, possibly a student, and the possibility of term limits for officers)
 - formalizing partnerships of Grad Council with the new TGS entity, Senate, and other university groups such as global engagement
 - creating ways to make our council meetings more accessible to the broader community. Our meetings could be live streamed where members are still required to attend but others (GPCs, DPDs, etc) could watch the meeting remotely to stay up to date.
 - Also want to make a note that the bylaws should be updated early next semester to account for the new college, so that elections can take place this spring.
 - Ron asked about forming a student advisory board. Can we look into a ways to have the students to work together on projects?
- Break-out discussion by committees – Did not get to this.
- New Business – Did not get to this.
- Adjourn

Remaining GC Meetings for AY 2024-25: Jan 27th, Feb 19th, Mar 19th, Apr 23rd, May 5th