



Graduate Council Meeting

Minutes: February 19, 2025

Attendees: **CCHL:** Amanda Birnbaum, Brad van Eeden-Moorefield, Matt Shurts, Meena Mahadevan, Alicia Rivera, Dana Levitt, **CEEL:** Erik Jacobson, Kayla O'Donnell, **CHSS:** Dominique Blake, Jessica Brandt, **CSAM:** Nina Goodey, Hao Liu, Melissa Spigelman, Scott Kight, **CART:** Scott Richards, Yi Luo, Ronald Sharps, **SBUS:** Rashmi Jain, Vidya Atal, Nicole Koppel, Dejah Ndiya, Elizabeth Rosini, **NURS:** Brenda Marshall, **TGS:** Chris King, Valerie Sessa, Michele Fisher, Debbie Reynoso, Michael Stuhlmiller, **Provost:** Kyle Dobbeck, **Guests:** Marina Johnson, Antonella Calarota-Ninman, Lori McCann, Jessica Spat-Lemus.

1. Opening remarks from GC leadership / approval of minutes from January 27th meeting
 - Meeting started 20 minutes late because of the fire drill.
 - President Koppel may attend our next meeting on March 19th (still needs to be confirmed).
There have been discussions with Stefanie about what we might want to ask the President to discuss including a potential merger with Jersey City State University, movement towards R1 status (particularly with respect to growing the number of research-based doctorates), and issues in our current political climate (immigration, DEI).
 - Minutes from the January 27th meeting were **approved**.
2. Reports:
 - TGS Report (Debbie Reynoso)
 - We graduated 17 doctoral students in January.
 - The Graduate School Development Conference for students is March 28th. Will start with a session on AI followed by topics revolving around research/writing, communication, and career readiness (resumes, screening platforms, benefits of diversity in the workplace).
 - An email will be forthcoming on the graduate student micro internship program.
 - Report from the Curriculum Committee, Chair (Vidya Atal)
 - i. New program proposal to review:
 1. New Certificate: Spanish for Health Professionals (Antonella Calarota-Ninman)
There is a new center for Latino Heritage and Spanish Language Excellence. They have several certificates in Spanish for various vocations at the undergraduate level. This is a graduate certificate with 2 required courses, an elective, and a required experiential-based capstone for a total of 12 credits.
Approved by the Council.

- ii. Program alteration proposals to review:
1. MM in Performance with Vocal conc. (Lori McCann)
Graduate program is growing and in addition to performance, students want more pedagogy. There are two tracts - one is strictly performance, while the other is a combination of performance and pedagogy. Removed a literature requirement and some electives, and added 3 pedagogy courses. **Approved by the Council.**
 2. MPH (Amanda Birnbaum)
 - a. Nomenclature change of conc. with curriculum alteration: MPH with Community Health Education conc.
 - b. MPH with Health Systems Administration and Policy conc.
 - c. Dual Degree MPH with Health Systems Administration and Policy conc. / MBA

There is a common alteration that affects all 3 programs in MPH. When they first opened the program, the statistics courses were farmed out to other departments. In this alteration they are replacing the previous statistics coursework with a biostatistics class that will be offered within the MPH department. Additionally, they are changing the title of a concentration - make it more broad while still including health education in the title. **Approved by the Council**
 3. MA in Clinical Psychology with Forensic Psychology conc. (Jessica Spat-Lemus)
Is a reorganization of the program to redefine core requirements and the concentration so doing clinical psychology across the program with a concentration in Forensic Psychology. **Approved by the Council**
 4. Teacher certification (presented by Vidya)
 - a. MAT (single cert) - P-3, K-6
 - b. MAT (dual cert with Teacher of Students with Disabilities) - P-3, K-6
 - c. CRI Initial Teacher Certification - P-3, K-6
 - d. CRI Alternate Route Teacher Certification - P-3, K-6, P-12

There have been changes to requirements for teacher certification, plus had to incorporate new seeds curriculum. Combined programs are still under discussion. CRI is an off ramp from the MAT without the comp exam. **Approved by the Council.**
- iii. Discussion on Swing Credits for Combined BX/MX programs ([data on competitors](#))
The curriculum committee is asking for feedback on potential swing credit models. Currently we have one size fits all regardless of the size of the program with 6-12 swing credits (Model A). Model B is structured as two different categories, one for a “small program” (6-12 swing credits for programs up to 36 credits) and one for a “large program” (up to 18 swing credits for programs that are above 36 credits). Model C takes a percentage approach where swing credits would represent up to 30 to 40 percent of the graduate program. Vidya is recommending Model B or Model C. Also need to consider our students’ maturity - at what point can undergraduate students handle these graduate courses? In Model C you could get into a situation where sophomores are taking graduate credits. It would be helpful however to attract older students who would be capable of taking these courses. Some concern that using a common percentage may not fit all programs. For example, 40% may be too high for large programs, yet is needed for smaller programs. So, using the same percentage for different size programs can be problematic. Some discussion about cross listing undergraduate/graduate courses, but cross listing 400/500-level does not really address this issue. Could we build in more flexibility to a tiered approach? For example could keep 6-12 swing credits for smaller

programs and 6 credits up to 30% of the program for larger programs. There was also some concern raised to not be too-much-out of step with swing credit numbers at other institutions (that top out around 18, except for two schools at 40%).

- Report from the Policy Committee, Chair (Chris King, Yi Luo)
Worked on a pilot policy for forced full time in select doctoral students enrolled in experiential activities for eligibility to health insurance. At this point the policy would primarily apply to students in Clinical Psychology. Additionally, will have to rework the bylaws for new college and outcomes from the restructuring committee. Raised concerns over potential reduction in federal funding to support graduate students and how to best support them.
- Report from the Student Affairs Committee, Chair
A statement from Stefanie was read by Rashmi concerning the micro-internship program.
“The Graduate Student Micro-internship program is being announced today, with University offices invited to propose a meaningful project that will contribute to the student’s professional development. We anticipate being able to support 10-20 projects with funding provided by the Provost.

“Over the past couple of weeks I have been in discussions with the Registrar, Aylin Solu-Brandon, regarding the antiquated process (the PDF form) that graduate students use to register for independent study courses. Aylin and her team are looking into bringing graduate students into the same web-based “workflow” process used by undergraduate students for independent study course registration. Once I have confirmation that this can be implemented, and the timeline for implementation, TGS will work with GPCs and DPDs to coordinate messaging to students.
- Report from the GC Restructuring Committee, Chair (Michele Fisher)
The committee met last week. We decided to postpone our work on revising the mission of Graduate Council until we have a better understanding of how the new graduate entity/office will function and interface with the council. The committee is moving ahead with a discussion on opening up eligibility of representatives to include selected staff positions with involvement in graduate education. We are also discussing whether staff would fill a limited number of existing representative positions or whether this would be an added position designated for staff.

Erik Jacobson - there will be a non-voting spot for graduate students on the Senate (this is a new position). They are advocating for international graduate students who were recently dropped from a low-cost health insurance plan offered by the state. Would like others to advocate as well.

3. New Business

4. Adjourn

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