



Graduate Council Meeting

November 13, 2024

3:30 pm to 5:00 pm

Attendees: **CCHL**: Dana Levitt, Amanda Birnbaum, Brad van Eiden Moorfield, Matt Shurts, Alicia Rivera, **CEEL**: Erik Jacobson, Kayla O'Donnell, **CHSS**: Jessica Brandt, Anna Feldman, Tarika Daftary Kapur, Emily Douglas, **CSAM**: Matt Schuler, Nina Goodey, Hao Liu, **CART**: Ronald Sharps, Scott Richards, Yi Luo, **SBUS**: Elizabeth Rosini, Rashmi Jain, Vidya Atal, Dejah Ndiya, **NURS**: Brenda Marshall, Elizabeth Fitzgerald, **TGS**: Laura Valente, Rebecca Newton, Debbie Reynoso, Michael Stuhmiller, Victoria Speiser, Adriana Garcia, Arthur Carlson, Stephen Bienkiewicz, Sree Chandana Kurella, Michele McCormick, Chris King, Valerie Sessa, Michele Fisher, **Grad Adm**: Timothy Hart, Jennifer O'Sullivan, Ginneh Collins

- Opening remarks from GC leadership - 5 min
- GC leadership: Will start discussions on organization and restructuring of Graduate Council, along with liaisons with other university level committees and initiatives, recommendations? Length of the GC meeting? Instead of having separate subcommittee meetings—larger group meets for 2 hours and save ½ hour for subcommittee meetings. This might not be enough time for the curriculum committee and we have to consider the length of the new common block for meetings. An ad hoc committee will be convened to address these issues
- TGS (Laura Valente)
 - Graduate Student Development Conference—speakers from across the university, true conference style experience (choices of topics, earn a certificate of completion for a track of topics), breakfast, lunch, networking, professional headshots.
 - This Friday—Graduate Education Summit for all involved in graduate education. Meatiest part of the day is “re-imagining TGS” (mission, goals, values, structure). It’s not really an academic “school” or “college”, but what is it? (center?)
 - i. Is there a charter for why TGS exists? No formal written set of expectations (more at the job description level). Role is to oversee movement of students from enrollment to graduation. How does faculty interact? How will this impact departments (ones with grad programs). What should be part of the re-imagined TGS portfolio? Will continue to foster student success but some operational functions (faculty training for GPCs/DPDs) may be moved outside of TGS.

- ii. Has the grad school ever had an outside evaluation—there is a council on graduate schools who can evaluate (hasn't been done since Joan Ficke, but we are examined during middle states).
 - iii. There is an impression that grad students, grad engagement, grad culture, and grad success have been ignored in the larger university community. One goal of the new Center is to have the staff and resources to influence grad culture to a greater degree. This is part of the reason for this. We need to also figure out how to broaden representation of GC across the university. How should we do this (make a list of all important committees on which we want representation).
- Admission—Tim Hart—introductions of Ginneh Collins, Jennifer O'sullivan
 - Graduate Open House. Online event. Success (2,500 attended, 62% of those who registered). Will re-imagine virtual open house for next fall.
 - Graduate program showcase for our undergrads scheduled for December 5th.
 - Enrollment for spring, 5% growth from last year.
- Policy—Chris King, info gathering needs, how do we set our agenda of what we are working on, how do policy committee decisions influence programs. Discussed standardization of doctoral milestones and thesis extension credits. Will eventually have to draft changes to bylaws from restructuring.
- Student Affairs—Tarika Kapur—funding for pilot programming (\$50,000), launch some sort of project where grad students can work on discrete projects (consulting model) (whether in line with studies or skills set), target international students who cannot work off campus. Real, meaningful work with a deliverable. How do we do this (the student affairs committee will come up with eligibility, criteria, rubric, etc.)? It is not a research assistant, or an administrative position. Would like to implement the pilot program in spring 2025.
- Curriculum--Vidya Atal –alteration in MA in Applied Linguistics. Adding a 0 credit “research seminars” every semester and some rearranging. Proposal will be made available and voted on for the next meeting. There are a number of other proposals that will also be on the agenda.
- Open Discussion/Brainstorming current GC issues
 - Curricular—Vidya Atal reported out.
 - i. Discussed roadblocks to creating interdisciplinary programs -- lack of infrastructure, lack of communication; spread out discussions in multiple committees instead of a unified approach
 - ii. Graduate admissions brought up the communication gap concern. Departments often don't realize that dept. decisions may not necessarily translate into university decisions, hence they need to go through the process first.
 - iii. Graduate admissions need to be informed of new programs or program closure decisions early on in the pipeline.

- iv. Possibly change the deadline for program terminations/suspensions to August 31 of the year prior to the Fall when it is going to be implemented, i.e., August 31, 2024, for Fall 2025 implementation.

- Student affairs: what are the most pressing student needs; what resources would you like to see for your graduate students.
 - i. Betsy Rosini—needs analysis as an experiential project. Events—evaluating/assessing. For example, career help—career fair seem geared towards entry level jobs—how are we measuring success
 - ii. Tarika Kapur—ideas and suggestions for pilot programs. Integrate into a consulting class. Bouncing around different ideas.

- Ideas for a new Adhoc-Committee - Report out by Timothy Hart:
 - 1. Priorities
 - 2. Money/Funding
 - 3. Influence In University Decision Making representing the graduate school population Better voice and representation in upper administration/Administrative/Faculty Leadership
 - a. Measurable responsibilities for the graduate school functioning
 - b. Proposals and Recommendations
 - c. Curriculum related issues
 - d. Voting on the graduate council
 - 4. Adding Staff including graduate council staff member that is housed in the graduate school
 - 5. Graduate School should be a center of protection and support for the students on academic and administrative issues
 - 6. Retention and accountability should be a part of the graduate school that has influence within university -
 - 7. Graduate School needs to have influence

- ii. Policy and Governance: Yi and Chris—why do we do what we do. Are there things we shouldn't do? Feeling reactive to policy development rather than proactive. We receive a task and do it. We need to be more pro-active.

Make sure we are an international student serving institution, not just enrolling.

Why does the graduate curriculum committee exist? In your department/school—they know why this program exists? What is the value

added? Curriculum committee can only say “no” or “can you make these changes”. If a department develops a program that duplicates another, this level can see that. Not just policing, innovations, want proposals seen by nonexperts. Hoped for purpose, curriculum committee and grad school will be part of the discussion to be more forward looking (more think tank). Environmental scanning for how others do curriculum. What is the big picture and our role in it?

- New Business
 - Ad hoc Committee on restructuring Graduate Council
 - i. Michele Fisher, Laura Valente, Betsy Rosini, Dejah Ndiya, Rashmi Jain
- Adjourn

Remaining GC Meetings for AY 2024-25: Dec 11th, Jan 27th, Feb 19th, Mar 19th, Apr 23rd, May 5th