

Present: Susan Awbrey (*Chair*), Kris Condic (*Ex Officio*), Joanne Lipson Freed, Meghan Harris, Zissimos Mourelatos, Robert Noiva (Co-Chair), , Claire Rammel (*Ex Officio*), Mohammad-Reza Siadat, Meir Shillor, Rajeev Singhal, Kris Thompson

Excused: Linda Pavonetti, Julia Smith

Staff: Celia Knobelsdorf (Secretary)

The meeting called to order at 1:34 PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meir Shillor moved to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2019, Graduate Council Meeting as written. Mohammad-Reza Siadat seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

- **Suspension of Graduate Certificates**

Susan Awbrey provided a list that comprised approximately twenty certificate programs for which the Graduate School is suspending admission. These programs have not had any students enrolled in them for at least five years. The Departments can ask to have them reinstated upon submission of plans to increase enrollment. The suspensions do not mean programs are discontinued.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Modifications

- **Psychology Ph.D. Modification**

Reviewer(s): Meghan Harris and Rajeev Singhal

At this time, the Department of Psychology has not submitted the corrected form. Therefore, discussion will be withheld until the corrected form is submitted.

- **Graduate Certificate Program Leadership, Diversity & Organizational Communication**

Kris Thompson and Julia Smith agreed to review this modification.

Kris Thompson provided the Council with her review. Modification submitted did not provide documentation of the need for the certificate program. How many students will be enrolled? There is indication that all of the courses are already offered in the program, however, there are several courses marked as new courses in item 6, list of courses and delivery of courses.

Given the title of the certificate, organizational and leadership, courses are optional, that being said students could have a certificate in Leadership, Diversity and Organizational Communication and not have taken a leadership or organizational communication course. How is this certificate different from that of the one offered through the School of Education?

Finally, the proposal indicates students that complete the certificate program with a GPA of B or higher are automatically eligible to continue taking courses toward the completion of the 36 credit Master's in Communication. Wouldn't students have to apply to the Master's program?

Susan Awbrey will contact the Department to request a list of course descriptions, statement of purpose of program and need outcome. She will also inform them, that if new courses are associated with this program, they will have to be approved by the Higher Learning Commission.

B. FOR DISCUSSION

- **Review Program Modification Form**

The Council reviewed and discussed the Graduate Program Modification Checklist. An additional line item suggested was what percentage of the program is changing. This would assist Council in determining if this was a new program or a modification, as new proposals need Senate approval.

Council inquired what information from the Graduate Program Modification Checklist is on the Program Modification form currently in use. Graduate School will do a comparison and bring information back the Council.

- **Post Candidacy Full-Time Credits**

Council discussed changing the definition of full time from eight credits to four credits for graduate students after candidacy. This would be for students who had passed their qualifying examinations, and were post-candidacy. Council asked if the Graduate School had received feedback from students. Susan Awbrey informed the Council at this time a student survey is being done. She will provide preliminary results at the next meeting.

Continued discussion will be conducted at the next meeting.

- **Founders Day – Graduate Faculty Mentor Award**

A call for nominations has gone out. Nominations will be submitted to the Graduate Council for discussion.

GOOD AND WELFARE

N/A

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 2:38 p.m.