GRADUATE COUNCIL
Minutes
Thursday, October 20, 2022, 3:30 pm
DePaulo Hall, Room 1017 --OR--
https://uncw.zoom.us/j/86577445066?pwd=enVNVFUyd0FUOEgrZDhWeTNFMzYyZz09

ATTENDANCE:
Council Members: Barreto, Bolton, Cummings, Hallenbeck, Johnson (new), Lee, Le Zotte, Sudnick, Williard

Non-Voting Members: Housand

Graduate School Staff: Byrnes, Donlin Washington, Harris, Phillips

Guests (for Agenda Item #3): Drs. Dighe, Parker, Walser

1. Approval of agenda and minutes
   a. September 20, 2022 -- Motion to approve: Bolton; Seconded: Le Zotte; All in favor? Yes; Opposed: No.

2. Announcements
   a. Welcome Daniel Johnson, Music – new member of Grad Council (replacing Andre Silva) representing CAS Division I, term expires Spring, 2023. Dan was added to the Curriculum B committee.

   b. Congratulations Wendy Donlin Washington – recently appointed Associate Dean of the Graduate School (non-voting member of Grad Council).

   c. Masters in Supply Chain Management and Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Chemistry – both approved by Board of Governors, need SACS approval. Expect new students in Fall, 2023. Opening applications for both, cannot accept students until final approvals received.

   d. Policy and Curriculum committee charges completed – Prior to this meeting, the Dean met with both committees. No discussion was brought forward to Grad Council by either committee today.

   e. Grad Faculty definition – The Dean asked Policy Committee to have a definition ready to discuss during an upcoming November/December Grad Council meeting.

   f. Curriculog – There are 80 proposals currently in process (as of 10/19). We estimate approximately 120 proposals this year, 30 less than last academic year.

   g. Grad Research + Creativity Showcase (Hybrid) – The Grad School would like to beef up student showcases in Fall and Spring and wanted to host an in-person Fall reception (with food/beverages) for Coordinators to recognize their work. Feedback from Coordinators is that it is not a good idea as they are tired of receptions and after-work events. In addition, more than 60% of grad students are in online programs. Considering this, the Grad School will host a virtual event (on 12/1 at 6pm) to present posters and video submissions. It was noted that the Undergrad showcase is cancelled this year as UNCW is hosting the State of NC Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium (SNCURCS) this year on 12/3. The Grad School could possibly partner with UG Coordinators next year to conduct a dual event?

What does Council think? Several were in favor of an in-person Spring reception as most students’ projects will be completed in the Spring and they could integrate the event into their course planning. It could be helpful to send a survey to Coordinators regarding this. Dr. Sudnick commented that the hybrid format might be best, and that Spring might not be the best time for an event for OAP students as Session 1 and 2 end and start in March. The Dean said the Grad School will re-group on how we move forward as it is important to give the student the opportunity to present.
2. **Announcements**
   
h. **3MT Competition** -- The Grad School would like to establish a 3-minute thesis (3MT) competition in the future.

3. **Discussion of MS Evaluation and Organizational Learning** -- Drs. Walser, Dighe and Parker from Watson College Educational Leadership Department joined the meeting to propose adding a Masters in Evaluation and Organizational Learning to their degree programs. As background, EDL started recruiting students for this program in Spring 2020. In Summer 2020, it was ruled that this program could not be incorporated into the existing Evaluation and Organizational Learning program. As an option, a concentration of organizational and evaluation learning was added to the Instructional Technology curriculum and the program was started in Fall 2020. Dr. Dighe was hired in Fall 2021 to support this program. Several issues arose such as: concentration is in a program that doesn’t fit; it is a different program and a different department.

EDL is requesting preliminary authorization to establish MS Evaluation and Organizational Learning as a new degree program starting in Spring 2022. The following details were shared:

- Program information (definition, program is not specific to education but to all disciplines)
- Program mission (commitment to program, dedicated faculty and department in place)
- Evaluator competencies from American Evaluation Association cover 5 different domains (professional practice, methodology, context, planning and management, interpersonal)
- Basis for development of program and student outcomes
- Coursework is already developed and being utilized via hybrid/distance education – total of 36 credit hours in evaluation foundations, inquiry, electives and culminating project.
- There is already a certificate program in place available in Evaluation (18 credit hours). The certificate would not be impacted by the proposed Master’s program. EDL is not recruiting for this certification. EDL has not cancelled this concentration as there are currently students in it.
- EDL is asking Grad Council to formalize what they are currently doing.

The Dean advised that this proposal would go to the Curriculum Committee eventually for consideration. It won’t need to go to SACS for approval.

4. **Application Process for Moving from Non-Degree to Degree Program** – Can we waive the application process/fee ($75.00) for students who are performing well in a certificate program? There is a lot of effort and cost involved. The Dean advised that we require them to apply – different application and program process between UG and Grad Education. We don’t generally waive application fees. The department can scholarship students for the fees.

**Policy solutions**? What are we trying to address? (Access problem – application fee and process are barriers.) What questions would we need to ask that meet the requirements? Are there any SACS implications (establishing the right paper trail)? What purpose would it serve to have the application process look differently between programs? Should there be an expedited process for current students doing well in a certificate program (without a perception of bias)? If we cannot fast-track, are we delaying the process? Can the student still take classes in a degree program? Application fees should not drive our policy. By waiving the fee, would it hurt the program (for instance, ESL)? Would this policy apply to other programs (Masters to Ph.D.) since they would need to pay another application fee? For any policy changes made, a window of dates will need to be communicated to change the process.

Dr. Barreto provided context in ITFSE. Their department, as well as Financial Aid, does not have money to provide to non-degree seeking students. The students come to us regarding certificate programs. They appear the same way in the system. Dr. Barreto believes that if we remove the application fee, we will help the program to grow/be sustained. If not, student enrollments could drop off and the program could die.

Ms. Harris (Admissions) commented that it depends on how long the student is in the program and that campus safety programs could be an issue. Right now, non-degree, degree-seeking and certificate programs are all the same process.
The process re-uses the documents previously submitted (which is time consuming). When an enrollment waiver comes in, that is when we see that a new program is being added and a certificate is being dropped. Private funding (with favorable rates) could also be utilized.

Other institutions (App. State and UNCG) require a new application. Ms. Harris will confirm the process.

5. Other
   Application for Graduation, traditional vs. OAP students – Why can’t the students be registered to graduate by their advisors? Students don’t typically interact with SeaNet. One issue is that we require the student to provide specific information when they register such as: the name they want on their diploma, the address they want the diploma mailed to and their permanent email address (not UNCW). The Dean will review this further and advise.

   Next meeting -- November 17 at 3:30pm.

6. Adjournment
   Motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Bolton.