

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 14, 2024 - ZOOM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Annette Barnes, DNP, MSN
Jennifer Bergner, MSME
Thomas Boudreau, CADR
Richard Bowler, HIST
Melissa Bugdal, Fulton School Rep
David Burns, COMM
Doug DeWitt, MED
Yvonne Downie-Hanley, MBA
Maida Finch, EDD
James Fox, EDLD
Elizabeth Geiger, OGS
Clifton Griffin, Dean of Graduate Studies
Samantha Hicks, GSC
Amanda Hill, CHHS Rep
Martin Hunter, Registrar
Allen Koehler, AVP Enrollment Management

Scott Mazzetti, HHPF
Stephen Oby, MSW
Heather Porter, Seidel Rep
Andrea Presotto, GIS
Jessica Scott, OGS

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Stephanie Bernhard, ENGL
Memo Diriker, Faculty Senate Liaison
Eric Liebgold, BIO
Ruth Malone, REED
Erin Stutelberg, MAT

I. Call to Order – 3:30pm.

II. Opening Remarks

A subgroup of GSC designed a survey to go out to grad students in order to gauge what help and/or resources they need.

There were 47 responses. (75% FT, 25% PT) (65% SU, 33% OL, 3% Satellite)

M. Bugdal will send out results to everyone.

C. Griffin – Thanked the committee for the efforts. This information will be helpful in designing programs.

VI. International Student Fee Waivers

Most international applicants ask for a fee waiver. Our policy says international applicants are ineligible to receive the waiver. However, we will grant one if it requested by the faculty.

VII. Thesis Student Enrollment – Clifton Griffin

Programs handle this differently. Some have a course, some offer variable credits. If a student is actively finishing the scholarly manuscript and are actively engaged, they should be enrolled in at least one credit hour.

Registrar agrees. Students must be enrolled in their graduation term.

A. Barnes – Can an incomplete option be used?

- C. Griffin – They should be registered. Courses should be developed or revised to make courses repeatable and variable credit options.

M. Bugdal – TA's only get tuition waiver for 36 credits and sometimes need additional time.

- C. Griffin – We can be mindful of exceptions

Will look at how programs are handling this and work to develop a policy.

VIII. GSC Remarks

Planning a spring event.

It is election season. Please share election information with your students and encourage them to participate.

IX. Dean's Remarks

Marketing

- All digital marketing campaigns are currently running.
- Along with brand awareness, utilizing Delmarva Life, Comcast streaming and Sea Gull Network.
- Did an email blast through Navigate (471 opened, 8 asked for more information)
- Reached out to undergrad athletes who would be graduating. Consulted with the AD on students who had extra years of eligibility.

Still no official letter from the Chancellor on the approval of the Grad School but have received an email.

At the Maryland Grad Deans meetings, there was a discussion about obtaining a Grad Week proclamation from the Governor. C. Griffin was asked to take the lead and it looks like it will be approved.

In the MD Matters Newsletter, there is pending legislation that needed to be followed. This legislation would give priority to UMCP and HBCU's in acquiring new graduate programs. If they receive approval for a new program, another USM school cannot have it.

- J. Fox asked that the link to the article be shared with everyone.
- T. Boudreau – CADR has been discussing online options and this would impede that.

- T. Boudreau – Any follow up with Peace Corps?
Liz reached out to Peace Corps
Jessica reached out to Dover Air Force Base and SU will have a table at their next recruiting event.
- D. Burns – What About Education USA?
A. Koehler – Education USA does have a list serve. There is an opportunity to push out to all embassies and state departments.

X. Other Comments – D. DeWitt

Just waiting for official Graduate School letter.

President is already talking about new strategic plan. Grad Council should consider a strategic plan for the new Grad School.

D. DeWitt will be retiring at the end of the semester and a new Chair will need to be elected.

- C. Griffin thanked Doug for all his years of hard work.