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Date: Wednesday, January 24, 2018

Location: J. Ryan Building Room 204

Subject: Graduate Faculty Council (GFC) Meeting Minutes Summary

Attendees: Mark Aindow, Mary Anne Amalaradjou, Karen Bresciano (*Ex-Officio*), Audrey Chapman, Zhiyi Chi, Yongku Cho, Caroline Dealy, Amanda Denes, Pamela Diggle, Mary Anne Doyle, Valerie Duffy, Niloy Dutta, Maria-Luz Fernandez, Miguel Gomes, Ashley Helton, Kent Holsinger (*Ex Officio*), Matthew Hughey, Magdalena Kaufmann, Lawrence Klobutcher, Barbara Kream (*Ex-Officio*), Adam Lepley, Charles Mahoney, James Marsden, D. Betsy McCoach, Barbara Parziale (*Ex Officio – Secretary*), Lynn Puddington, Subhash Ray, Heather Read, Alexander Russell, Joel Salisbury, Cristian Schulthess, Kathy Segerson (*Ex Officio*), Farhed Shah, Juliet Shellman, David Solomon, Rachel Theodore, Judith Thorpe, Anastasios Tzingounis, Andrew Wiemer, and Chuanrong Zhang.

Absent: Daniel Adler, Mehdi Anwar, Janet Barnes-Farrell, Robert Bird, Eric Brunner, Andrew Bush, Ki Chon, Casey Cobb, Jon Gajewski, Jane Gordon, Mitchell Green, Louise Lewis, Nicholas Lownes, Graham O’Toole (GSS), Guillermo Risatti, Victoria Robinson, Beth Russell, Jennifer Scapetis, Gregory Semenza, Gregory Sotzing, Jiong Tang, Deepthi Varghese, Penny Vlahos. Peter Zarrow and Cyrus Zirakzadeh.

1. Agenda item number one (1) – Call to order. Moderator Charles Mahoney called to order the regular meeting of the GFC for January 24, 2018 at 3:04 pm.
2. Agenda item number two (2) – Approval of Minutes. Moderator Mahoney introduced the minutes of the November 15, 2017 meeting to the GFC. There was a motion to accept the minutes offered, which was seconded and the motion was adopted in favor by all members present. **Agenda item number two (2) was passed unanimously without dissent on a voice vote.**
3. Agenda item number three (3) – Dean Announcements.
   1. The following have been added to the staff at The Graduate School
      1. Karen Bresciano – Assistant Dean for Graduate Student and Post-Doctoral Affairs
      2. Cinnamon Adams – Director, Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Scholar Support
      3. Megan Petsa – Program Coordinator
      4. Position Open – Director of Fellowships, Outreach and Programming
   2. Professor Maria-Luz Fernandez was the winner of the Marth Award. There will be a reception at the Alumni House on April 19th at 4:00 pm.
   3. The University is currently in negotiations with the Graduate Student Employees Union.
4. Agenda item number four (4) - Report from the Graduate Student Senate. There was no representative from the Graduate Student Senate and therefore no report.
5. Agenda item number five (5) – Updates and Announcements.
   1. Associate Dean Kathy Segerson continues her work with the Graduate Catalog Copy write ups which were due in The Graduate School office by February 5th. She is currently reviewing the submissions and making any revisions necessary. If you have not submitted your copy, please do so as soon as possible.
   2. Once the catalog is completely online, discussions with the Registrar’s office are being held on how to create authoritative documented changes to the Graduate Online Catalog.
6. Agenda item number six (6) – Old Business.
   1. Certificate grade requirement
      1. Currently each course in the certificate has to have a grade of B or higher. This requirement is more stringent than degree programs, which does not make sense for a certificate program.
      2. Two options were presented. After a brief discussion there was a motion offered to change the catalog language regarding certificate grade requirements. **Agenda item number six a (6a) was passed on a show of hands.**
      3. The new catalog language should now read: “*To be awarded a certificate, a student must satisfactorily complete (with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher) a set of courses consisting of 12- to 15-credits specified in the certificate program requirements.”*
   2. Transfer credits: Grade requirements
      1. Currently transfer credits must be a B or better, which applies to both internal and external credits.
      2. The concern/issue with this is 3-fold:
         1. Requirement sets a higher standard for a student who takes a course prior to being admitted to a program than for a student who takes the same course after being admitted.
         2. A course taken before admission with a grad of B- would require the student to retake the course to include it on the Plan of Study
         3. Students are not allowed to use courses taken prior to admission that are graded on an S/U basis even when those courses are required for the program
      3. A motion was made and seconded to change the grade requirement for transfer credits throughout the catalog. **Agenda item number six b (6b) was passed on a voice vote.**
      4. *The new catalog language should follow the following criteria:*
         1. *Credits taken prior to enrollment in the University of Connecticut degree or certificate program, whether taken at the University of Connecticut or elsewhere, must be of B- quality or higher to be accepted as transfer credits and used to meet program requirements.*
         2. *Notwithstanding item 1 above, satisfactory grades on a University of Connecticut transcript graded with S/U transfers may be accepted as transfer credits.*
         3. *In addition, individual programs may set higher standards for accepting transfer credits.*
         4. *Inclusion of transfer credits on a Plan of Study requires approval of the student’s major advisor.*
7. Agenda item number seven (7) - New Business.
   1. Catalog copy regarding GPA rule.
      1. To what does the current catalog copy requiring a GPA of 3.0 apply? Must all courses on the transcript meet the 3.0 GPA rule? Do only those courses used on the Plan of Study need to meet the 3.0 GPA rule?
      2. It was suggested that students who have one semester with a GPA lower than 3.0 be put on academic probation and those students who have a second semester with a GPA lower than 3.0 be dismissed.
      3. This topic was to be taken back to the graduate programs for further discussion.
   2. New Postdoctoral policy.
      1. There is discussion of a new Postdoctoral policy of having a 40 hour work week with 22 days of vacation. This is out-of-line with the traditional Postdoctoral 12 month policy.
      2. This topic was also to be taken back to the graduate programs for further discussion.

1. There was a motion offered for adjournment, which was seconded. The motion was passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 4:27 pm.
2. The next regular meeting of the GFC is scheduled for February 21, 2018 in Room 204 of the J. Ryan Building.