Graduate Council Minutes | 10/04/2023

Present: Kimberly Bell, Agnieszka Bialkowska, Elizabeth Boon, Susan Brennan, Kara DeSanna, David Green, Melissa Jordan, Chris Kretz, Richard Larson, Celia Marshik, Jose Moscoso-Nunez, Brian Nucci, Colleen O'Toole, David Rubenstein, Marcia Simon, Arleen Steckel, Daniel Waxman

Absent: Brooke Belisle, Lily Blocker, Holly Colognato, Allegra DeLaurentiis, Michael Ferdman, Sonia Harmand, Gianna Juliano-Hooper, Hanna Nekvasil

1. Called to order at 2:03pm
2. Review of the Minutes from 09/20/2023
   a. Fixed a minor spelling mistake
   b. Motion to accept. Seconded. Passed unanimously.
3. Old Business
   a. GCAC requires an additional member
      i. An additional volunteer was found
4. Dean’s Report
   a. Elizabeth Boon officially started as the new Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives
      i. As a faculty, she has experience running training grants and DEI initiatives, and is interested in expanding this experience to other disciplines to help best train graduate students
   b. AAU Graduate Deans meeting
      i. Good opportunity to gain perspective from other universities and their graduate programs
      ii. Among other things, attended useful discussions regarding recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions on race-conscious admissions, graduate student stipends, and scalability
   c. GPD retreat on Friday
      i. Session on admissions
         1. e.g., around SCOTUS decision and SUNY guidance
         2. Several new GPDs talking about rubrics
      ii. Working lunch on different topics, including program curriculum updates
      iii. Continuing an active effort to make the retreats an active workshop rather than lectures
5. Program Updates from Kara DeSanna
   a. MS in decision analytics approved by NYSED
   b. SUNY has rolled out new curriculum management software, effective immediately.
      i. This shouldn’t affect anyone outside the Provost’s Office right now
6. New Business
a. New Accelerated Degree Proposal BS/MS in Biochemistry and Cell Biology
   i. Relatively new process for combined programs
      1. Allows for expedited processing of combined programs, without
         the explicit permission of SUNY/NYSED
      2. B.S. is in Biochemistry, not in Biochemistry and Cell Biology
      3. Question: regarding the electives list, with MCB 520 (required) and
         CHE 541 (nearly identical, allowed elective)
            a. These aren’t exclusive in the bulletin; the Graduate School
               to ask MCB and CHE to make them exclusive
            b. This therefore doesn’t affect the proposal
   ii. Q: Course conflicts seem like they may be a problem – does this make
       5-year completion particularly challenging?
      1. A: There’s planning involved on behalf of the program to make
         sure this is possible
   iii. Motion to approve. Seconded. Approved unanimously.

b. Overview of process for HBBMS and Dated Program Re-registration
   i. HBBMS “tracks” may want to make changes and will likely have to go
      through a disaggregation process to become distinct programs
   ii. Some are asking for their “tracks” to be permanently closed (once any
       remaining students finish)
      1. Two tracks want to be closed; five tracks wish to be registered as
         their own degree program; two tracks haven’t yet decided
      2. These will come through the Graduate Council
      3. Kara DeSanna will consult with NYS to determine if further
         approvals are required
   iii. ~20 dated programs have been contacted
      1. If there are no changes, the GC will reaffirm they are in
         compliance
      2. Minor changes that don’t reach the necessity of SUNY approval
         will be reviewed with a memo
      3. Major changes will require a new proposal
   iv. Review of Political Science MA Degree (last reviewed by NYS in 1990,
       local approval only for verification of compliance)
      1. This program is separate from the MA in Public Policy, and only
         admits PhD students
      2. Q: Does approval now give a new date of registration?
         a. A: This is for local record-keeping purposes only. It
            provides more time before full SUNY review is required.
      3. Motion to approve. Seconded. Approved unanimously.

7. Motion to adjourn at 2:53pm. Seconded. Approved unanimously.