MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2012, 1:00PM-2:45PM

Attendance: Laurel M. Garrick Duhaney - Dean of the Graduate School, Karen Bell – Presiding Officer of the Graduate Faculty, Inge Anema, Thais B.P. da Cunha, Matthew Friday, Gweneth M. Lloyd, Rosemary Millham, Narcyz Roztocki, Vika Shock, Jane Sileo, Helise Winters

Excused: Jeff Reinking

Guest Presenter: Terry Murray

Minutes Approval

Two separate minutes were on the floor for approval, the Minutes of Spring 2012 Council meeting and those of Council’s most recent meeting. Both were approved, with the latter requiring some relatively minor typographical corrections which included Vika’s name being removed from the By-Laws subcommittee.

Announcements

Laurel encouraged Council to read the New York Times article of 9/28/12: Enrollment Drops Again in Graduate Programs for future reference as we continue to examine the present status and future direction of our own graduate programs.

Review of Alternate Admissions Criteria

Terry Murray of the Humanistic/Multicultural Education Program met with the Council to further clarify and discuss the need to consider modification of the program’s admissions criteria. Terry stated that the program typically draws on a broad range of target groups/audiences and that most applicants’ GPA tends to fall within the 2.75-2.99 range; which is slightly below the 3.0 requirement. Terry asked that we consider admitting students to the program who meet all admissions criteria, except for the minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA, who take two courses with full-time professors and earn minimum grades of B. Extensive discussion ensued regarding this option, some main points included:

- time frame for taking the course
- consideration for the course to be taken with either of the program’s two main instructors Nancy and Terry
- time frame that these courses should be taken within—suggestion of 2 years
need to develop a list of interview questions or a set of interview criteria that are uniform across the board and asked to all applicants
- develop a rubric for evaluating both mechanics and content of writing samples
- need to clarify the point at which such an option would be presented to applicant—before or after formal application
- need to determine whether the courses that the students take are seated or online

Discussion on the presentation concluded with Laurel encouraging Terry and Council to think about the benefits and challenges of flexing graduate admissions criteria for any sub-group. Terry left following presentation.

**Student Appeal**

Council discussed case involving student appeal following denial of acceptance of admission. Following extensive discussion involving careful scrutiny and detailed review of case documents, Council unanimously voted to uphold the denial decision of both the program and that of Dr. Laurel M. Garrick Duhaney, Dean of Graduate School.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:45Pm

Minutes submitted by Gweneth M. Lloyd