Graduate Council Minutes
April 1, 2011

Present: Inge Anema, Larry Fialkow, Matthew Friday, Stella Deen, Gweneth Lloyd, Jan McLaurin, Rosemary Millham, Andrea Noel, Narcyz Roztocki, Rose Rudnitski, Vika Shock, Bernadette Morris, Kate McCoy, Dan Kempton.

I. Minutes of March 18, 2011—APPROVED

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. The Department of Secondary Education (SED) held two graduate info-sessions this week, one on Tuesday at the SUB with 7 attendees and one at the LC lobby with 17 attendees.

b. Matthew Friday: Marc and Livia Strauss, Directors of the Hudson valley Contemporary Art Center, will be presenting April 1st at 6:30 pm in Smiley Art Building (SAB).
   i. Immediately following the event, the Art Department will be hosting graduate and undergraduate open studios from 7-9pm.

c. Andrea Noel: There is a signed Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Elementary Education in the School of Education and Lenape Elementary School.
   i. In fall 2011 and spring 2012 there will be one clan (N=15) of grad students meeting at Lenape to work with Lenape students.
   ii. This is our first school partnership in the Literacy program.


a. There are some concerns about:
   i. The rubric, e.g., 100% is exceeds where it should be meets.
   ii. The individual’s contribution to the group.
   iii. The journal rubric is problematic: journal is not worth much and is complicated.
   iv. The missing syllabus for online delivery.
   v. The proposal must address library issue.
   vi. The proposal’s discussion of probable success of the different styles.
   vii. How the 2 different populations will be handled: online and hybrid.
   viii. What will be gained pedagogically form these delivery formats?
      1. More discussion needed about online interaction, group projects, and the need for in-depth participation and a rubric for participation.
   ix. What will be gained pedagogically form these delivery formats?
      1. The seated component of the hybrid must be more than test taking and lectures, but should bring students together for meaningful learning experiences.
IV. Discussion on the best practices in online learning.
   a. Stella Deen posted an article on Blackboard for the committee members: “Implementing Best Practices in Online Learning”.
   b. The Council had many questions regarding internet supported delivery:
      i. What is the validity of the pedagogical approach?
      ii. What is the length of the course?
      iii. What is a hybrid course?
      iv. What does the Grad Council want to see in a hybrid course?
   1. Other areas of concern are:
      a. Faculty Satisfaction
      b. Student Support
      c. SEIs (Student Evaluation of Instructor)
      d. Best Pedagogical Practices
      e. Visible institutional commitment
      f. Rigor of hybrid and online delivery
         1. What does rigor look like?
   c. JOLT (Journal of Online Learning and Teaching) is the premier website for online learning. ([http://jolt.merlot.org](http://jolt.merlot.org))
      i. Stella suggested that since there are many articles in JOLT that would add to the discussion on the best practices in online learning.
         1. On April 29th, Grad Council members will have read articles which addresses one of the research areas:
            ▪ Hybrid Learning: Visible Institutional Commitment
            ▪ Hybrid Learning: Rigor and Quality
            ▪ Hybrid Learning: Faculty Support and Satisfaction
            ▪ Hybrid Learning: Student Technical Support
            ▪ Hybrid Learning: Student Evaluation of Courses
            ▪ Hybrid Learning: Best Pedagogical Practices
            ▪ Hybrid Learning: Converting Whole Programs to Online Formats
            a. Members should sign up to research one of these topics, drawing on resources and links posted on Blackboard. Each member should present a good article on her/his topic for the meeting of April 29th.
         2. Stella Deen will post on Blackboard the groups and topics.
   V. Sally Cross, Director of Alumni Relations, has been invited to speak to the Graduate Council on April 15th about outreach to New Paltz Graduate School alums. The Council wishes to be in touch with alumni for the purposes of program evaluation; encouraging alumni-student engagement; and fundraising.
VI. Tonda Highley, Director of the Career Resource Center, will be willing to come on that day, too, to discuss her department’s services that are available to graduate students.

VII. Rose Rudnitski and Stella Deen will meet and work on developing a workshop on excellent advising.

VIII. The Council briefly touched on the agenda item “Including 600-level classes in our graduate curricula.”
   a. If the graduate Council is going to discuss what course levels mean, then she will post this on Blackboard.
   b. Stella remarked that Williams College was particularly good at this.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bernadette Morris