

SUNY- NEW PALTZ GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF February 4, 2011 MEETING
Location: Haggerty Administration Building, Room 802

Meeting called to Order: 1:05 PM

Present: Inge Anema, Stella Deen, Larry Fialkow, Dan Kampton, Gweneth M. Lloyd, Jan McLaurin, Rosemary Millham, Andrea Noel, Narcyz Roztock, Rose Rudnitski, Vika Shock

1. Approval of minutes

The minutes for December 10, 2010 were unanimously approved with minor corrections.

2. Announcements

- a. Stella reminded Council of the upcoming annual Graduate School Open House scheduled for Thursday, February 17, 2011 from 5:00PM-7:00PM in the SDMA. It will be advertised in the February 15, 2011 issue of the Poughkeepsie Journal. An email was sent to all graduate coordinators informing them of the event. Stella agreed to send an informational email about the event to all members of Graduate Council.
- b. Stella and Jackie Andrews have launched a Teacher Continuing Education Survey under the auspices of the Mid-Hudson Teacher Center. The survey is designed to assess the training needs of teachers in the region. A parallel survey will also be sent, with the help of BOCES administrators, to school principals and superintendents.
- c. During the winter break, both the MAT and MSED suspended programs in adolescence education were approved, and have been reinstated.
- d. Rose reported that research work of graduate students is being showcased on March 8 in Albany. Stella is receiving applications for graduate student research to be presented there on March 8.

3. Old Business

- a. The Graduate School is working with the Office Enrollment Management and a consultant to run focus groups to gain better understanding of the factors that influence accepted students' decision to select or not select New Paltz. The study will include the use of focus groups of accepted students as well as those

who declined. The study will be restricted to the Teacher Education Program primarily because it has the largest number of students.

Enrollment Management has further worked with the Graduate School to invest in a larger market research study to help plan enrollment, program development, and recruitment in all the schools.

- b. Graduate council recommendation for Middle States self-study: extensive discussion ensued regarding various areas in the document that needed further elaboration, clarification and reorganization. Stella attributed some of these factors to the need that the document had to be concise and was therefore compressed.

Several inconsistencies through-out the document were noted. Some of the identified areas for revision included chapter 3, pages 3-5 and 14. Council suggested that in these areas, there should be closer relationship between Chapter 1 and 3. In chapter 1, the reader should be directed to refer to Chapter 3 for recommendations. In Chapter 4, paragraph 2, the last sentence should be reframed with a much more positive spin.

Both Rosemary Millham and Rose Rudnitski agreed to submit a brief commentary on the Education Program for incorporation into the document.

4. New Business

- a. Election of the Presiding Officer of the Graduate Faculty
Since Karen Bell is now serving as Interim Dean of the Graduate School she will not be able to maintain her role as Presiding Officer. It is therefore necessary to select an interim officer. Stella explained the two options: special election or appointment of the runner-up in the campus-wide election: Rose Rudnitski. In discussing this option the question was raised as to who is a “graduate faculty.” Rose indicated that she would consider assuming the role.

It was agreed that Council would take time to consider the proposal between now and the next Council meeting (February 18, 2011) and send any feedback to Stella. If there is a general consensus in support of the proposal, at the next meeting Rose will be affirmed as the new Presiding Officer.

- b. Review and Approval of New Course Proposals
 - i. EDS 5xx: Drug Education for Teachers
Feedback: 1) Selection of course number, 2) need for better correlation between course goals, content and assignment, 3) Clarification as to how on-line discussions will address course goals – provide sample discussion points/questions, 4) suggestion to include

assignments that doesn't include 20 annotated bibliography as students most likely will not invest reading time especially in a one credit bearing course, 5) need for discussion questions to be centered around specific article—i.e. consider having students read three books and use the annotated bibliography assignment to correlate with specific learning goals as developing critical perspective, developing skills in interpretation and analysis, etc., by asking for a more substantive entry for each of these three books.

Due to the number of areas in need of restructuring, council agreed that the proposal be revised and resubmitted for approval consideration.

- ii. CPS 510: Programming and Data Structures
Feedback: 1) Question about course status as a “Special Topic Course,” 2) clarification of rationale and course objectives, 3) course management i.e. Professor’s role vs. Teaching Assistant, 4) assignment should be aligned with specific objective, 5) given nature of course, need to consider course as prerequisite to matriculation status.

Council agreed that proposal be will returned for revision based on accompanying feedback before consideration for approval.

c. Assessment of Graduate Programs

The graduate school will also be hiring a research firm to carry out a comprehensive market analysis with the focus on “deliverability” and promotion of programs within the graduate school. Bids are presently being considered.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Gweneth M. Lloyd