

Graduate Council meeting of September 9, 2011.

In attendance: Stella Turk (LAS/CMD), Kate McCoy (Education), Gweneth Lloyd (Psych. Counseling Center), Thais B.P. da Cunha (Elementary Ed.), Rosemary Millham (Secondary Ed.), Narcyz Roztock (Business), Dan Kempton (English), Matthew Friday (Art), Graduate Dean Laurel M. Garrick Duhaney, Vika Shock (Graduate School), Inge Anema (LAS/CMD), L. Fialkow (SSE/CS)

1. Introductory remarks by the Dean: a) One concern for the current year is the decline in graduate enrollments. To counter this trend, there should be initiatives in marketing of graduate programs; consideration of new certificate and masters programs, such as Disaster Management; strengthened advising in areas needing special attention, such as MAT programs. b) The Dean expressed thanks for the contributions to the Council by Jan McLaurin over many years and indicated that a letter of appreciation would be sent to Jan by the Council. c) The Dean also noted that Rose Rudnitski has stepped down from the Council because she has assumed new responsibilities in the School of Education.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were corrected and approved.
3. Stella Turk, Chair of Communication Disorders, led a discussion of best practices concerning Distance Learning. This centered around experience with a post-baccalaureate certificate program concerning communication disorders consisting of three online courses. Part of the attractiveness of the program for the College is that it is funded by tuition, is revenue generating, and provides extra service pay for regular New Paltz faculty.

During the discussion, the Dean again noted that a significant goal of any new certificate or masters programs should be increased graduate enrollments. The discussion included the possibility of hybrid courses. There was some discussion of difficulties for current programs due to fewer student placement opportunities in the current economic downturn.

The Dean also indicated a desire for higher pay for faculty developing online courses, and there was discussion of summer salaries (for online courses) based on workload.

Certain related issues should be put to the general faculty during the current year:

- i) Can we offer existing degrees online or in hybrid form?
- ii) New masters programs (and certificate programs) should be focused where there is student demand. Areas mentioned include Communication Disorders, Special Ed, Psychology.
- iii) There is need for market analysis, to see what other schools are doing.
- iv) There is a need to discuss the timing of programs, so as to make better use of summer, weekends, and intersession, partly with a view toward accelerated time frames for program completion.

Other items in the discussion:

- v) There is a need for “diversity” in graduate programs .
- vi) Depending on the program, the use of day as well as night classes is advisable.
- vii) Need to survey faculty to see who wants to teach online in summer.
- viii) Stella Turk will hold a workshop concerning online courses (?) on September 14,2:30-3:30, Hum 116.
- ix) The Dean suggested the need for graduate scholarships and grants, and the need for an advisory council.

Submitted by L. Fialkow