

Graduate Council Minutes 10/18/2023

Present: Brooke Belisle, Kimberly Bell, Agnieszka Bialkowska, Elizabeth Boon, Susan Brennan, Kara DeSanna, Michael Ferdman, David Green, Melissa Jordan, Celia Marshik, Brian Nucci, Colleen O'Toole, David Rubenstein, Marcia Simon, Arleen Steckel, Daniel Waxman

Absent: Lily Blocker, Holly Colognato, Allegra DeLaurentiis, Sonia Harmand, Gianna Juliano-Hooper, Chris Kretz, Richard Larson, Jose Moscoso-Nunez, Hanna Nekvasil,

1. Called to order at 2:01pm
2. Dean's Report
 - a. Main event: The Graduate Program Director retreat was held on October 6th
 - b. The current interim director of graduate admissions will become the permanent director
 - c. Michelle Fuentes, in enrollment management for recruitment, is coming to the Graduate School for admissions processing and communications
 - d. Presentation: Admissions and Rubrics
 - i. Outlined SUNY's recent guidance regarding admissions and DEI programs in light of the US Supreme Court decisions in Students for Fair Admissions cases
 - ii. Also outlined the use of rubrics for Graduate Admissions
 - iii. Q: Do rubrics need to be reviewed by the Graduate School?
 1. A: Currently a review is not required, although the Graduate School has offered to review any rubrics
3. Review of the Minutes from 10/04/2023
 - a. Motion to approve. Seconded. Approved unanimously.
4. PhD in Nursing Change in Cognate Credit Load (local approval only, leading to a full review)
 - a. Motion to approve. Seconded. Approved unanimously.
5. Admissions transcript policy and cumulative GPA calculation (report from Melissa Jordan and Colleen O'Toole):
 - a. Presented by Fred Koromi, current director of graduate admissions
 - b. Current Policy: "Applicants with domestic credentials must submit an official transcript from each undergraduate college or university attended, regardless of whether a degree was conferred. Applicants must also submit an official transcript from each college or university relating to graduate-level work, regardless of whether a degree was conferred."
 - c. The suggested revision is to only require transcripts from institutions where a degree was conferred.
 - d. Programs were asked to provide feedback based on their admissions practices; among respondents, the majority only want to use transcripts from institutions where a degree was conferred

- e. Per Braden Hosch, Institutional Research, Planning & Effectiveness is okay with this change as long as they know the reporting policy
 - f. Departments can still require unofficial transcripts; if so, it must do so for all applicants and this must be included in the admissions requirements in the bulletin
 - g. This change would significantly improve the speed of the admissions process
 - h. Q: What happens if the department wants to use transcripts to waive a course
 - i. A: GS doesn't waive course requirements, that's on a departmental basis
 - i. Comment: Reviewing GPAs before sending an offer letter is an issue; students requiring a visa need offer letters as soon as possible for the VIS process
 - i. This actually speeds up the VIS process, since matriculation is necessary, not just offer letters
 - j. Besides this change, admissions should be faster between more processing power from new hires and new software
 - k. Request: the minimum GPA requirement stays the same, but is calculated only using the transcript of the degree-granting institution. Official transcripts are no longer required from all institutions attended. Departments may still require unofficial transcripts, but they will not be included in the official GPA calculation.
 - l. Motion to approve. Seconded. Approved unanimously.
6. Motion to adjourn at 2:47pm. Seconded. Approved unanimously.