

# Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 21, 2023 -ZOOM

## MEMBERS PRESENT:

Annette Barnes, DNP, MSN

Jennifer Bergner, MSME

Melissa Bugdal, Fulton School Rep

Laurie Couch, Provost

Doug DeWitt, MED

Maida Finch, REED

James Fox, EDLD

Elizabeth Geiger, OGS

Aston Gonzalez, HIST

Clifton Griffin, Dean of Graduate Studies

Amanda Hill, CHHS Rep

committee was preparing document for next semester, everything was halted due to Covid. After the proposal was mentioned in President Lepre's Inauguration Address, it was decided to update the document and proceed.

x Questions

- o A. Barnes – How will this impact faculty status? Most Nursing faculty teach grad and undergrad. And has SWOT analysis been updated?
    - Faculty Status will not change and reporting structures will stay the same. SWOT was updated and given to Provost.
  - o P. McDermott – Is there anything that needs to be reported to Perdue as far as the process?
    - Transition will be seamless but a grad school can offer more support to Y. Downie.
  - o M. Finch – Proposal seems to minimize the need for additional resources but may need those to grow enrollment. Should there be a line item that resources will be reassessed during budgeting process?
    - D. DeWitt and C. Griffin will look to add a line addressing that concern. Marketing plan is already impressive. May need some more money for rebranding efforts.
  - o A. Presotto – Is there an incentive for a grad school?
    - Long Term Benefits – If we graduate a certain number of graduate students we can apply for a reclassification of our Carnegie status. Also gives campus ability to argue for a more aligned funding model with other USM institutions. Short Term Benefits – Rankings, being in line with peer institutions and fundraising opportunities through naming rights.
  - o A. Gonzalez – Budgets were cut 10% even though enrollment is steady. There was no funding model for the Gen Ed restructure. Can there be financial assurances?
    - Current budget is dire but a direct result of Covid. A rebound should be expected. As enrollment increases so will tuition dollars.
  - o J. Fox – Should we be strategic about potential donors?
    - C. Griffin has met with Jason Curtin. The school needs to be in place before we can get serious about asking potential donors for monetary support.
- x By consensus Grad Councils ready to move forward. C. Griffin will want to have a conversation with Dean's Council and will get on their agenda as soon as possible. The current Faculty Senate President is supportive and D. DeWitt will contact her to have it added to the next Faculty Senate agenda.

V. Active Student Graduate Management

- x OGS is now monitoring active students. This does not mean they're engaged.
- x OGS will rely on Grad Program Directors for more relationship building.
- x J. Scott is working to clean up the active list as she found several instances of students who should not be considered active (dismissals, certificate completions).

VI. Goal to Increase Grad Enrollment

- x President's increase is not insignificant.

x Will need more than current list of programs to reach new enrollment goals.

x