**Graduate Council Meeting**

**November 20, 2020**

**Virtual**

**Minutes  
(approved 1/22/21)**

**Faculty Present**: Dan Balfour, Andrea Bostrom, Wendy Burns-Ardolino, Amy Campbell, Shabbir Choudhuri, Xiang Ciao, Dianne Conrad, Monica Harris, Barbara Harvey, Jon Jeffryes, Rich Jelier, Courtney Karasinski, Rui Niu-Cooper, Karen Ozga, Jennifer Pope, Paulette Ratliff-Miller, Mark Staves, Joel Wendland-Liu, Michelle Wooddell

**Graduate Student Representatives:** None present

**Administrative Ex-Officio Present:** Irene Fountain, Tracey James-Heer, Mark Luttenton, Jennifer Palm, Jeffrey Potteiger, Steven Lipnicki, Ellen Schendel, Pam Wells

**Graduate Student Association:** John T. Jones

**Ex-Officio Students Present:** Amanda Filkins

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **AGENDA ITEM** | **DISCUSSION** | **ACTION/DECISION** |
| **I. Call to Order – A. Bostrom** |  |  |
| **II. Approval of Agenda – A. Bostrom** | The steering committee title under new business is incorrect. It should be Reach Higher Together Strategic Planning Committee. | **Motion:** J. Pope moved to approve the agenda with correction to the item in new business. P. Ratliff Miller seconded. Motion passed unanimously. |
| **III. Approval of Minutes October 23, 2020 – A. Bostrom** |  | **Motion:** D. Balfour movedto approve the October 23, 2020 minutes. J. Pope seconded. Motion passed unanimously. |
| **IV. Chair’s Report – A. Bostrom** | A. Bostrom presented a draft memo to ECS that outlined the Graduate Council’s recommendations for the new Graduate and Lifetime Learning unit.  The memo will be revised to include the correct title for the unit.  It was noted that “Graduate School”/ “graduate dean” refer to the role this unit/person plays in graduate education. The Graduate Council’s recommendation is that the unit/person should continue to have a direct line to the Provost to ensure graduate programs maintain the same level of visibility and collective identity.  The Policy Subcommittee will continue working on the draft. Graduate Council members will have an opportunity to review the final draft before it is sent to ECS.  The KCON graduate committee are writing a formal response to the new unit. This will be sent to the Policy Subcommittee so they have the feedback from colleges. | **Motion:** M. Staves moved to submit the draft memo to the Policy Subcommittee for additional work. A. Campbell seconded. Motion passed unanimously |
| **V. Curriculum & Program Review Subcommittee Report – M. Staves** | The GC-CPR reviewed five proposals since the last Graduate Council meeting. They were program change requests for the Biomedical Engineering program, Criminal Justice program, TESOL, Clinical Dietetics, and a badge in Web and Mobile Computing. |  |
| **VI. Policy Subcommittee Report – D. Balfour** | At the most recent subcommittee meeting, members discussed the Provost’s meeting with the Graduate Council concerning the new Graduate and Lifelong Learning unit.  The subcommittee also discussed the faculty workload policy and noted progress was made for faculty serving on thesis/dissertation committees.  Work continued on definitions for tracks, concentrations, emphases, and so on. |  |
| **VII. Graduate Student Association Report – J. Jones** | Elections are being held for 2021-22 GSA officers. They will begin serving in Winter 2021 so they gain institutional knowledge from the current GSA officers. After that, elections will begin for director level seats to provide more representation across graduate programs.  The GA is looking at providing more services to graduate students such as the PACES program. They are putting resources together for students who are moving into the post-COVID workforce and will be holding resume training and reviews.  The GSA recognized Steven Lipnicki for his years of service to graduate students and the GSA. His efforts, knowledge, and dedication to the GSA have been invaluable to the organization. |  |
| **VIII. Dean’s Report – J. Potteiger** | The Graduate School Updates  The thesis for Richard Gross in the MSE program will be submitted to represent GVSU in the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools outstanding thesis competition.  The Presidential Research Grant Review Committee approved five grant proposals for funding for Winter 2021 research. The review committee members were recognized for their ongoing contribution to graduate student research. Committee members are: Shannon Biros, Shaunna Kelder, Alexandra Locher, Robert Smart, Mark Staves, and Laurie Stickler.  The Graduate School will continue offering virtual thesis/dissertation workshops in Winter 2021. The last workshop for Fall 2020 was held last week. Students find the workshops to be beneficial.  The Graduate Dean’s Citations event will be held virtually on December 17. The event includes awards for graduate students and faculty.  New Graduate Student Orientation for Winter 2021 will be held on January 12 and 14. Both sessions will be virtual.  The GVSU 3-MT competition will be held in mid-February, virtually. The winner will represent GVSU at the MAGS 3-MT competition in early April 2021.  D. Conrad commended J. Potteiger for his contributions to graduate education. |  |
| **IX. Old Business** | There was no old business. |  |
| **X. New Business** | Reach Higher Together Strategic Planning Committee  C. Karasinski is serving on the committee and seeking input from constituents. The website is https://www.gvsu.edu/reachhigher2025/our-vision-mission-values-12.htm  Suggestions for revisions included:   * Use a word other than “transversal” as the meaning is not immediately understood. * The statement does not include the concept of lifetime learning. * Given the current digital infrastructure, #2 and #4 are in conflict as many people in rural areas do not have reliable technology. * The term “growth mindset” is a trendy term and may not be in use long-term. * #1 should describe high quality, learner-centered education that is more descriptive of work at the institution across undergraduate and graduate programs. * There is no mention of scholarship. It should be mentioned in a more specific way such as a statement that we value scholarship, or scholarship can be incorporated in innovation. * It was unclear if the mission statement will stay the same. If the mission statement changes the values statements might need to be revised.   Graduate Council members should email C. Karasinski with comments and suggestions.  Recognition of Outgoing Members  J. Potteiger recognized S. Lipnicki and D. Balfour for their contributions and service to graduate education and wished them well upon their retirement from GVSU.  Election of New Vice-Chair  W. Burns-Ardolino was elected vice-chair, beginning in Winter 2021. |  |
| **XI. Adjournment** |  | **Motion:** M. Staves moved toadjourn. J. Wendland-Liu seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:34 AM. |