

**MINUTES**

**UNCP Graduate Council Meeting**

Monday, September 21, 2020, 3:00 p.m.

Virtual meeting due to Covid-19 closures

**Present: Irene Aiken (chair),** Whitney Akers, **Christine Bell, Latoya Brewer, Kirill Bumin (secretary), Serina Cinnamon,** Rick Crandall, **Susan Edkins,** Michele Fazio, **Kelly Ficklin,** Brandy Geary (GSO president), **Rita Hagevik, Julie Harrison-Swartz, Shenika Jones,** Mari Kennings (GSO secretary), **Roger Ladd,** Naomi Lifschitz-Grant, Darnell Robinson (GSO VP), **Gretchen Robinson,** Marisa Scott, **Emily Sharum, Kim Sellers, Tom Trendowski, Summer Woodside, and Velinda Woriax**

**Absent: Kim Sellers**

**Guests:** Eleanor Johnson, Jodi Phelps, Loury Floyd, Zoe Locklear, Lisa Mitchell, Ashley Allen, Robert Arndt

Meeting started at 3:00 pm.

* Agenda was approved as presented (later, at the request of Naomi Lifschitz-Grant, proposals from Art Education were pulled, with the expectation that they will be considered during the Oct. Meeting.
* Minutes from April 20, 2020 Meeting were approved as presented.



* Visitors:
  + Provost Locklear delivered greetings and thanked the Graduate School staff, the program directors, and graduate program faculty for their work, which has resulted in GS enrollment skyrocketing to 1,826 in fall 2020.
  + Jodi Phelps shared data related to UCM’s marketing efforts (see attachment) and Eleanor Johnson discussed strategies for improving program websites and marketing materials. She provided 2 links to help PDs:
    - Website Audit: <https://forms.gle/SGjeMAgthtGcxq447>
    - Program 8x8 Bifold creation form: <https://forms.gle/tXMxJvW94VyVVoXS8>
    - Jodi Phelps presentation:



* **Graduate Faculty Nominations**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Last** | **First** | **Degree** | **Dept** | **Program** | **Status** | **CV** | **Votes[[1]](#footnote-1)** |
| Hinson | Ashley | EdD | Ed Leadership and Specialties | MSA | Adjunct |  | **20-0-0** |
| Lowery | Arine | MA | History | Social Studies Ed | Prof Aff |  | **20-0-0** |
| Pereira | Maria | PhD | Biology | Science Ed | Full |  | **20-0-0** |
| Scott | Marisa | PhD | Ed Leadership and Specialties | Special Ed | Full |  | **20-0-0** |
| Smith | LaMorris | MA | Teacher Ed | MAT and EE | Proff Aff |  | **20-0-0** |
| Sullivan | Keri | EdD | Ed Leadership and Specialties | Special Ed | Adjunct |  | **20-0-0** |
| Tippett | Elizabeth | MSA | Teacher Ed | MAT | Prof Aff |  | **19-0-1** |

* **Graduate School Items/Report**
  + Dean Aiken discussed graduate school enrollment, noting that the Graduate School now has **1826** graduate students (preliminary census report), which represents a **36**% increase over last year and over 22% of UNCP student body. She noted that with the enrollment growth each of the last three years, The Graduate School has grown close to **236%** in a three year period. Dr. Aiken mentioned that MBA program grew **53**% since last year and makes up over half of the graduate student body, with 966 students. By contrast, non-MBA enrollment grew **14.9%** over last year and **41%** since fall 2017.
  + Dean Aiken talked about recruitment initiatives. She mentioned several new virtual activities that The Graduate School is engaged in, including: virtual Open Houses (multiple ones), New Student Orientation, Admitted Student’s Day (new event), Live campus tour (new event), GSO meetings, and virtual one on one meetings offered by Emily Oxendine.
  + Dr. Aiken asked the PDs to consider their current program application requirements (e.g., GRE, etc., Recommendations, 8-week courses, deadlines) and reassess whether they are still necessary and meaningful. She also suggested that PDs consider new/additional ways to connect with their students.
  + Dr. Aiken mentioned that some funding for PDs for recruitment and marketing is available and urged the Council members to reach out to her if funds are needed.
  + Dr. Aiken reminded the Council members that graduate course analyses are available to PDs and department chairs.
* Dean Aiken announced that the NC Council of Graduate Schools Conference will be virtual (October 22-23, 2020) and invited PDs and interested parties to participate ([LINK](https://www.wcu.edu/apply/graduate-school/resources-faculty-staff/nccgs-annualmeeting.aspx)).
* **Unfinished/New Business**
* Dr. Aiken mentioned that, as soon as we have clarity about 2021-22 AY schedule, Dr. Bumin will be in touch with PDs to set up application deadlines for AY 2021-22 year (fall, spring, summer 1, summer 2) and encouraged PDs to start thinking about them now.
* Dr. Aiken mentioned that she would like to form an Ad Hoc subcommittee to examine thesis requirements and procedures. Dr. Ladd agreed to participate, and Dr. Aiken asked others to let her know if they would like to be involved.
* **Announcements/Reminders**

1. Remaining Grad Council Meetings for 20-21 academic year (at 3:00 pm; Oct. and Nov. meetings held via WebEx; 2021 meeting TBD): October 19, November 16 of 2020, and January 25, February 15, March 15, and April 19 of 2021
2. Application Deadlines:

October 1 for spring 2021 graduation

March 1 for fall 2021 graduation

* **Adjourn**

Meeting ended 4:15 pm.

1. For–abstain–against [↑](#footnote-ref-1)