

Minutes of UD Graduate College Council Meeting, September 21, 2020, 3:30PM

Present: Racicot, Laux, Patterson, Martin, Kwansa, Riordan, Davis, McConnell, Corbett, Botello, Rossi, Purciello, Biswas, Zurakowski, Perry, Okoye, Zide, Kane, Lenhoff, Mansoori, Parcels, Caplan, Steinbrecher, Maresca, Thomas, Braun, Watson, White, Johnson, Daniels, Griffin, Bell, Dobler, Bais, Chan, Ford, Irvine, Miller, Buckley, Silbernagel, Tepsuporn, Healey, Sarkar, Hutchison, Wang, Rechsteiner, McAfee, Salisbury, Wei, Alexo

1. Meeting convened (Mark Parcels, Chairperson), with Current Agenda and Past Minutes approved unanimously
2. Dean's Remarks (Lou Rossi, Dean)
  - A. Developing mission and vision statements.
    - a) Short statements are needed for grants and other external uses, and for internal guidance. By Laws don't usually have Missions in them, as Missions come first---ours do because of Faculty Senate process, but a more condensed, pointed, and actionable statement still needed. The Dean suggests a statement that is consistent with what's in the By Laws, for Council consideration, advice, amendment and possible action. Draft attached.
    - b) The Dean overviewed key items in the statements. Core of Mission is to achieve excellence in grad education and to elevate the stature of programs nationally and internationally. Vision statement includes: the unified intentionality of faculty and administration to establish College to dedicate ourselves to needs and aspirations of grad students, and that College's primary responsibility is to advocate for success and well-being of graduate students. Enhancing graduate student experiences, fostering innovation, recruiting and retaining students, and supporting opportunities for scholarship are key. Statement emphasizes we place the highest value on humanity, and so we reflect equity, diversity, and inclusion in everything. Operational excellence is a necessity, supported not by re-inventing the wheel at every turn, but by studying using evidence-based best practices.
    - c) The Dean asked Council to reflect and comment, and to decide if it want to act on in any way on these proposed statements.
    - d) Discussion followed, including points about the importance of calling out post-docs as a key group for the College to nurture, how to carry a vision to reality ("using a good strategic plan," the Dean comments, with objectives, metrics and actions that tie to vision items), and the need to set priorities in a world of limited resources. An example objective to increase the number of graduate students was discussed, including the

point that increase numbers without a focus on quality is not desirable. It was noted that increased funding is a key.

- e) Some operational questions arose in the course of discussion, including whether grad student candidates could be brought to campus under current COVID-era protocols to visit labs (answer: criteria and procedures being worked on), and what is the recent intake of graduate students (answer: slightly up versus last year, with PCS being the largest percentage growth, though undergraduate enrollment is substantially down).
  - B. The Dean raised the topic of admissions, and holistic admissions in particular, suggesting Council study this and share research-based info. A particular question is should GRE be waived—this year, or as standing policy? The Chairperson may send this question to a committee.
  - C. The Dean discussed some timely news and information topics.
    - a) The Dean highlighted that Council became involved in the decision process for fellowships (Univ. Grad. Fellows, Univ. Grad. Scholars, Univ. Dissert. Fellows. UNIDEL Dist. Grad. Scholars) in 2019. He would like Council to organize to continue doing so.
    - b) The Graduate College, along with all others, is being asked to reduce budgets. Already-committed-to fellowships will not change. The exiting Graduate College Fellow (faculty) will not be replaced, and some staff retirements will not be replaced.
    - c) The Dean has looked further into the possibility of paying graduate student stipends to students outside the US. It would be legally complex, and would be very expensive (relative to the size of the paychecks) to hire a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to handle the complexities. At least for now, this is not going to occur. It was remarked that, at the Graduate Student Government meeting, there was discussion of some students being required to work for faculty supervisors even though not being paid. The Dean asked to be informed of any such specific situations.
  - D. The Chairperson suggested an ad hoc committee to work on crafting of the mission and vision statements, asking for volunteers to contact him. Hopefully a draft could be prepared before the next meeting.
  - E. A question was asked: What would be the plan for making a strategic plan? The Dean suggested that, after finalizing the mission/vision, groups could be set up to look at each goal and identify objectives connected to each goal, and that some already-existing groups in the College were already taking first steps.
3. Graduate student representative report (Famatta Perry). The work-without-pay issue noted above was reiterated. Graduate students are also concerned about increases in student fees when stipends are not being increased. Non-resident international students have to pay increased fees for campus facilities even though they not here to use them. There is a desire to know in more detail what specific fees are for, especially to understand if some are for services that cannot presently be accessed. The Dean

remarked that he is arranging for appropriate administrators to attend the October Graduate Student Government meeting to provide information.

4. Standing committee reports
  - A. Interdisciplinary Program committee (Braun). Membership list was overviewed. The Committee met on September 14 and re-elected its chairperson. The Committee expects 5 programs to apply to join the Graduate College this fall, including MS in Data Science and PhD in Education and Social Policy. The MS in Data Science might use a different name. It was noted that, while the Committee title includes the word 'interdisciplinary,' its scope includes new UD-wide policies, changes in the structure of any programs, and developments in graduate teaching and curricula.
    - a) Q: How are programs joining the College to be funded? A: College will provide admin support centrally, but funding for students in general not through College (that would either be internal to program or via their tuition). Some of this may be negotiated per-case, depending on priorities. TA support would hopefully be funded within the Depts, though the College might provide funding to get something good started.
    - b) Q: Are all interdisciplinary programs expected to move into the College? A: Many work well within their current College, and there is no requirement to move. Moving is, in the first instance, at the discretion of the programs. Even new programs can be in a College other than the Graduate College (and some new ones have already been). Idea is to promote graduate education in various ways, not to mandate a structure.
  - B. Graduate Student Life Committee has not yet met this year. Past membership noted. New or re-elected chair needed. New grad student reps needed, as prior members have left UD.
  - C. Graduate Awards Fellowship Committee has not yet met this year. Past membership noted. New or re-elected chair needed. The general point was noted that committee members need not be Council members.
5. College Liaison Report. No reports at this meeting; instead, the agenda item used for planning. The Biden School will report in October, and the Health Sciences College in November. It was noted that ELI has established an in-person class that should satisfy the regulatory/visa needs of incoming international grad students.
6. New business
  - A. The Chairperson commented that the possible establishment of new standing committees was on his mind when he decided to run for office. He thinks we could help implement mission better with (possibly) 3 new committees: Equity and Inclusion, Assessment and Data Management. Some details are provided on slides (attached). He asked for initial discussion now, and to consider possible proposals at our October meeting with a possible vote in November. Discussion followed, including on what would be the actions of these committees. The Chair noted that serving as a collection point for information, for communication and coordination with staff, and for advocacy/communication would be among the functions.

- B. No other new business.
- 7. Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is October 12, 3:30 PM, on Zoom.



# Grad College Council

1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Fall 2020

21 September 2020

# Agenda

## Agenda Item

1. Call to order
2. Secretary's Report
  - a. Approval of agenda
  - b. Approval of minutes (from May meeting)
3. Dean's report and questions (Rossi)
  - a. Proposed Vision Statement change to the by-laws
  - b. Holistic Admission Development, implementation of GRE-optional or non-GRE admissions
  - c. Update on Covid-19 Issues and Policies, Q&A period
4. Standing reports
  - a. Graduate student report – Topics of concern to grad student councilors and others (Famatta Perry, CANR rep)
5. Committee reports
  - a. Interdisciplinary Curriculum Committee (Richard Braun or new chair)
  - b. Graduate Student Life Committee (Amy Griffin or new chair)
  - c. Awards and Fellowships Committee (Don Watson or new chair)
6. College Liaison Reports
  - a. ~~College of Health Sciences (CHS)~~ (done in April, any not done?)
  - b. Activities across Colleges that relate to Grad College mission
7. New business
  - a. New slate of Councilors and Committee Chairs
  - b. Discussion for the establishment of possible new standing committees (Parcells proposal)
    - i. Equity and Inclusion<sup>1</sup>
    - ii. Data Management and Assessment<sup>2</sup>
    - iii. Communication and Marketing<sup>3</sup>

**Note:** For initial information and discussion purposes at this stage. Modifications to proposal and vote on establishment of committees to come at October/November meetings.

8. Adjourn

# Call to Order / Secretary's Report



- Thanks to Paul Laux for stepping up to be Secretary
- Approval of agenda
- Approval of minutes (May 2020)

# Report of the Graduate College Dean

## 3. Dean's report and questions (Rossi)

- Proposed Mission/Vision Statement change to the by-laws and moving toward a strategic plan.
- Holistic Admission Development, implementation of GRE-optional or non-GRE admissions
- Update on Covid-19 Issues and Policies, Q & A period





# Standing Reports

- a. Graduate student report – Topics of concern to grad student councilors and others (Famatta Perry, CANR rep)



# Committee Reports

## 5. Committee reports

- Interdisciplinary Curriculum Committee (Richard Braun, chair)
- Graduate Student Life Committee (Amy Griffin or new chair)
- Awards and Fellowships Committee (Don Watson or new chair)

# Committee Report: Interdisciplinary Curriculum Committee (ICC)



- The ICC consists of
  - Richard Braun (chair), Math, CAS, [rjbraun@udel.edu](mailto:rjbraun@udel.edu)
  - Clara Chan, Geological Sci, CEOE, [cschan@udel.edu](mailto:cschan@udel.edu)
  - Jennifer Horney, Epidemiology, CHS, [horney@udel.edu](mailto:horney@udel.edu)
  - Shree Inamdar, Plant and Soil Sciences, CANR, [inamdar@udel.edu](mailto:inamdar@udel.edu)
  - Julia Maresca, Civil and Environmental Engrg, CoE, [jmaresca@udel.edu](mailto:jmaresca@udel.edu)
  - Siyan Wang, Economics, CBE, [wangs@udel.edu](mailto:wangs@udel.edu)
  - Laura Desimone, CEHD (and Biden School), [lauramd@udel.edu](mailto:lauramd@udel.edu)
  - Ishita Sarkar, Graduate Student in ISTM in LCBE, [ishitas@udel.edu](mailto:ishitas@udel.edu)
  - Mary Martin (Graduate Dean's representative), Graduate College, [marym@udel.edu](mailto:marym@udel.edu)

# ICC Report

- The ICC met on Monday Sept 14<sup>th</sup> virtually.
- For continuity, the committee agreed that R Braun will chair for the 20-21 AY.
- The committee expects that at least 5 programs will be starting the process to enter the graduate college this fall:
  - MS in Data Science
  - MA/PhD in Education and Social Policy
  - Certificate in Engagement
  - MS/PhD in Microbiology
  - MS/PhD in Water Science and Policy
- There could be more

# ICC Report

- Two proposals for degrees to enter grad college were briefly discussed
- MS in Data Science
  - seeking letters
  - bundling academic plus administrative changes into one proposal
- MA/PhD in Education and Social Policy
  - Joint between School of Ed, Human Dev and Family Sci, and the Biden School
  - PhD program with MA if student seeks that (no admission for MA)
  - finishing proposal
- Both expected to start in curriculog soon

# ICC Report

Scope of committee role from the Grad Council bylaws:

This committee shall review and evaluate:

- i. graduate courses and curricula that originate within the Graduate College (e.g., Multi-College interdisciplinary programs);
- ii. new or provisional University-wide academic policies and degree requirements;
- iii. changes in the structure of academic programs that originate within the College;
- iv. developments in graduate teaching and curricula that may affect the University; and
- v. other matters related to graduate educational affairs.

# College Liaison Reports

- Brief report from a College (***CHS listed, but they went in April***)
  - We've heard from CANR, CEOE, CAS, CHS, CEHD, CENG, LCBE,
  - Hear from Biden College? Start over?
- Key achievements across the Colleges

# New Business: Discussion of Possible Establishment of New Standing Committees

## 7. New business

- New slate of Councilors and Committee Chairs
- Discussion for the establishment of possible new standing committees (Parcells proposal)
  - Equity and Inclusion<sup>1</sup>
  - Data Management and Assessment<sup>2</sup>
  - Communication and Marketing<sup>3</sup>
- **Note:** For initial information and discussion purposes at this stage. Modifications to proposal and vote on establishment of committees to come at October/November meetings.





# Proposed New Committee (1):

## **Graduate College Committee on Equity and Inclusion**

Grad College Liaison: LaRuth McAfee (or designee)

Purpose of the Committee: To promote diversity, equity and inclusion at the graduate level through the development of holistic admission standards, support of undergraduate research opportunities for students of color, establishment of pipelines from regional and national HBCUs into our graduate programs, and the seeking and sustaining of minority-focused funding mechanisms (grants, foundational resources) for supporting graduate students of color. This committee will work in close association with Assistant Dean for DEI as well as the Graduate Student Life committee, with outreach to College and University DEI committees.

Composition: LaRuth McAfee (?), (4-5) grad council members/faculty at large, (2) graduate student representatives (from GSG)

# Proposed New Committee (2):

## **Graduate College Assessment and Data Management Committee**

Liaison: Andrew Jenks, CTAL (others?)

Purpose of the Committee: To provide readily accessible data on matriculation, time to degree, demographic and outcome data to graduate directors, the Graduate College and administrators. In addition, this committee will work with CTAL to provide program assessment tools for best practices on program assessment (for internal optimization and APR reporting).

Representation: (4) Grad Council members/faculty representatives, CTAL and Math/Data Science reps, Graduate student representative

# Proposed New Committee (3):

## **Graduate College Communication and Marketing Committee**

Liaisons: George Irvine (or designee), Suprawee Tepsuporn (or designee), CTAL representative

Purpose of the Committee: To optimize graduate communication, online program development, and provide access to market analysis for program development. In addition, this committee will work with PCE to establish best practices for online course and program delivery as well as marketing of these programs outside the University.

Representation: (4) Grad Council/faculty representatives, PCE representative(s), CTAL representative, (grad student representation needed?)

# Introduction of any Additional New Business

- All Councilors have the right to introduce new business



# Closing business

- Timing of next meeting
  - Monday, October 9, 3:30 PM
- Adjourn



## Audio Transcript for the recording - September 21 Graduate College Council Meeting is now available

Zoom <no-reply@zoom.us>

Mon 9/21/2020 8:05 PM

To: Steinbrecher, Carol <cbstein@udel.edu>

Hi Carol Steinbrecher,

The audio transcript of your meeting recording is now available.

Topic: September 21 Graduate College Council Meeting

Date: Sep 21, 2020 03:22 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

These files are available to view, download, and edit on the recording detail page:

[https://udel.zoom.us/recording/detail?meeting\\_id=V16BKGfpR4qFgS9HrRTH9w%3D%3D](https://udel.zoom.us/recording/detail?meeting_id=V16BKGfpR4qFgS9HrRTH9w%3D%3D)

To share the recording with the integrated audio transcript:

[https://udel.zoom.us/rec/share/P9s-](https://udel.zoom.us/rec/share/P9s-AkkWMys_bTpbsKEB1TrwhP8c8vzB8V_9Pr9_XRCw3YoGrA_o3Gh1INktdPKM.vxd-pwdMuzelo-Ac)

[AkkWMys\\_bTpbsKEB1TrwhP8c8vzB8V\\_9Pr9\\_XRCw3YoGrA\\_o3Gh1INktdPKM.vxd-pwdMuzelo-Ac](https://udel.zoom.us/rec/share/P9s-AkkWMys_bTpbsKEB1TrwhP8c8vzB8V_9Pr9_XRCw3YoGrA_o3Gh1INktdPKM.vxd-pwdMuzelo-Ac)

(Access Passcode: VeKRu&28)

Thank you for choosing Zoom.

-The Zoom Team

## **Mission and Vision Statement for the University of Delaware Graduate College**

### **Mission**

The mission of the Graduate College is to achieve excellence in graduate education and graduate research, scholarship and creative expression at the University of Delaware. In doing so, the Graduate College will elevate the stature of our graduate programs nationally and internationally.

### **Vision**

Established in 2019, the University of Delaware Graduate College is an expression of the will of the faculty and administration at the University to dedicate itself to the needs and aspirations of our graduate students. We will advocate for our graduate students' success and well-being in all parts of their lives on and off campus. The Graduate College will enhance graduate experiences by:

- **building** a welcoming, respectful, strong, diverse and resilient graduate community,
- **fostering** innovation in graduate education, especially in creating and supporting interdisciplinary programs, delivering online courses and programs and extending educational opportunities to nontraditional learners,
- **providing** opportunities for professional development so that graduate students can achieve their career aspirations,
- **recruiting** and **retaining** the best and brightest students,
- **supporting, developing** and **enhancing** opportunities for graduate research, scholarship and creative expression.

We place the highest value on our common humanity, and therefore we will reflect and act upon issues of diversity, equity and inclusion in the decisions that we make. Operational excellence and operational continuity will be our guiding organizational principles. Best practices, data and evidence will inform all our actions, and we will maximize our impact by working harmoniously with the Graduate Council, the University's other colleges and units, as well as partners from outside the university.