

Members Present: Harold Pardue, Elizabeth Adams, Eric Loomis, Robert Barrington, Gwendolyn Pennywell, Tres Stefurak, Leigh Minchew, Joyce Pittman, Aishwarya Prakash, Huubinh (Ben) Le, Huubinh (Ben) Le, Neil Schwartz, Phillip Smith, Ryan Benton, Jaclyn Bunch, Evan-Angelo Butlig, Jaclyn Bunch, Deanna Cobb, Angela Coleman, Angela Coleman, Norma Jean Tanner, Ashley Suggs

Members Absent: Debra Chapman, Clive Woods, Blair Saale, Kevin West, Jessica McCarty, Lorene Flanders, S. Raj Chaudhury

Guests Present: Ashley Gibson, Lisa LaCross, Tammy Vance, Samantha Chaney, Angela Rand

Minutes: A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the minutes from 4/18/23.

- 1. Graduate Dean's Report-** Dr. Pardue recapped the structure of the Graduate School and the roles of staff members. He noted that the 3MT contest went well. The winner Christa Russell will advance to the next round. Dr. Pardue gave a breakdown of Graduate School funding sources. He reported that the department is over budget. Dr. Pardue is working with Bobbie Hancock to resolve it. Dr. Pardue discussed Graduate Assistantships. He explained that we cannot waive tuition as a state institution. A portion of the funding for GA tuition comes from the USA Foundation. He advised the Council that funds would be given directly to programs for assistantships. He advised the programs to follow rules regarding equal pay for equal work. It was noted some faculty are still encountering challenges with using Turnitin for thesis submissions. At present, it only checks for plagiarism, but not the use of AI. The current process requires the creation of an assignment in Canvas for a student to submit their thesis. An SOP will be developed to address this issue. It was also noted that the graduate school has available funds generated from application fees to use toward marketing. Dr. Pardue noted that programs can email him to make requests between \$2000-3000.
- 2. Updating program bulletins to reflect dismissal rules:** Dr. Pardue discussed that program policy should be placed in the bulletin, rather than in their handbooks.
- 3. ACHE and GA update** —Ashley Gibson's Reports

- a. ACHE: four new programs were implemented in the fall, one new concentration.
- b. CIM: system rolled out for programs and curriculum. Going well, but if there are questions please reach out.
- c. GAs: Deadlines for spring: GTAs December 5th, GRA/GAs: December 12th.

Paperwork can be submitted early; the turnout window is very short this year

4. **SLATE:** Norma Jean Tanner's Report

The admissions office is working to get all graduate forms into SLATE. However, the process was delayed due to their additional duties. She also noted that some of the functions that the University would like to implement are not available with the version of SLATE being used.

5. **College of Nursing**—Dr. Leigh Minchew's Report

- a. Dr. Minchew proposed a New DNP Program - Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia. She reported that it would function as a track and not a separate program (which does not need ACHE approval). She reported the program would be 3 years and would have a complement of approximately 10 students. She stated that 2 faculty members would have to be hired to develop the program and curriculum as well as seek accreditation before student enrollment. Additionally, she reported that several current offerings could be used toward the pursuit of the certification.
- b. Dr. Minchew also proposed a New MSN/NP/BSN-DNP Specialty - FNP/PMHNP Specialty
- c. It was moved that the body pursue efforts to implement the Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia track for the DNP program and the New MSN/NP/BSN-DNP Specialty - FNP/PMHNP Specialty. The motion carried.

6. **Budget proposal for the transition of GSA to GSGA**—Evan-Angelo Butlig

The Graduate Student Association presented a proposed budget for the GSGA of \$89,300 to be sourced from a nominal student fee (\$1 per credit hour) and transfer of funds from other entities such as the SGA. Benefits to students would include travel/research support,

professional development, programming, sponsoring student groups, stipends for the executive board, telehealth mental counseling, and an Ombudsperson. The College of Nursing expressed concerns regarding the value to online students. The MPA program expressed concern for hybrid organizations that may lose support. An opt-out option was proposed. However, the consensus was that one could not opt out of a governing body. The Council tabled the discussion.

7. Angela Rand's Reports

- a. The Graduate Student Lounge in Marx Library is open. She provided a breakdown of student usage.
- b. Angela Rand advised there was an upcoming Zotero bibliographic management program workshop. She discussed there were several improvements in the software that were beneficial.

8. **GA External Employment:** Dr. Pardue discussed the external employment policy for GAs. He explained the current policy does not prohibit external work. However, he felt in most cases holding full-time employment, enrollment, and a 20-hour assistantship was not in the best interest of the student. Several programs noted that some of their students are successful while holding full-time employment. It was noted that performance metrics on evaluations should be used to determine feasibility on an individual basis. The discussion did not result in any actions.

9. Adjournment