

Graduate Studies Council - GSC
Meeting Minutes
2/3/21

1. Roll Call: Lauren Foxworth (chair), Alex Garlick (vice-chair, taking minutes), Tim Clydesdale, Michael Ellard, Mark Woodford, Mary Ann Dugan.
 - a. Absent: Gerald Mauriello, Boyana Georgeiva, Kathryn Jervis, Ellen Farr
2. Review/approve minutes from November 2020 meeting
 - a. Approved unanimously

New Business:

1. Allow the Director of Graduate Studies to join GSC as non-voting member
 - a. Michael Ellard joined GSC for today. Governance document that DGS would be a member, but this was before TCNJ initiated the Dean of Graduate Studies.
 - b. Board of Trustees would have to approve the Director of GS as a full-member, so TC proposed having the Director as a *non-voting member in the meantime*.
 - c. Mr. Ellard has been such an observant in the past, as a non-voting member and would be happy to continue.
 - d. Motion approved unanimously
2. Masters in interdisciplinary studies
 - a. Discussion of the idea of pairing any 2 graduate certificates to achieve a “Master of interdisciplinary studies” (if at least one is a liberal arts masters) or “Masters of Professional Studies” (if both are professional.)
 - b. TC shared examples from other institutions of higher education (Boise St., Texas Tech, NYU-Gallatin, UT-Dallas). Other schools often have a 3 person committee and the program needs to include a capstone experience.
 - c. Traditional grad degrees culminate in a thesis, we’d be looking more for a capstone.
 - d. Opportunity for this to fit into the 4+1 model.
 - e. Discussion of writing certificate as a potentially popular option to pair.
 - f. AG asked what problem does this solve?
 - i. TC mentions that grad higher education thinks a bit too narrowly.
 - ii. Easier to launch a degree for a new program like public policy.
 - iii. Some ideas (info security are a better fit for a certificate than a whole program.)
 - g. MD thinks this could be an opportunity to increase interdisciplinary interaction among faculty.
3. Masters of professional studies
 - a. See item (2) above.

- b. Examples (Georgetown, Cornell) this degree is usually for more industry specific degrees (journalism, business).
4. Graduate official organization request: Mary Ann Dugan
- a. The Public Health department and Exercise science departments are interested in the formation of a graduate student organization.
 - b. The college can't formally recognize grad student organizations at the moment, as the current framework draws revenue from *undergraduate* fees, so a *graduate student fee* would have to be initiated. Existing organizations have probably relied on department workarounds (therefore not supported by student affairs, therefore not able to make reservations). There may also need to be a grad student union to oversee it.
 - c. MW mentions there's a robust grad student honor society within the counseling department.
 - d. ME mentions a "graduate appreciation event"
 - e. More ad hoc organizing in the meantime could be a way to facilitate graduate student life without a fee.