

Agenda

Graduate Committee Meeting

Virtual Meeting

February 7th, 2025

10:00am-11:30am

* Call to Order
  + In attendance: Sean Cote, Natasha Feinberg, Leonardo Pinheiro, Joan Walsh, Aswood Bousseau, Kalina Brabeck, Brandon Hawk, Gabriela Torres, Leslie Schuster, Desirée Ciambrone, Julie Horwitz
* Vote on Minutes
  + December: unanimous yes; approved
* Proposal
  + Program Revision MA in Justice Studies
    - Soc 501 is a writing-intensive course; much needed before students go into their research thesis project
    - Vote: unanimous yes; approved
* Report of the Chair
  + Updating graduate committee website
    - many done in December which went through
    - Learning the process of the proposal area of the website. A whole new software is being purchased to use. Sean will be testing it on Monday by updating it with today’s approval.
* Report of Vice Provost
  + We have assigned graduate assistantships and approved them
    - All GA placements have very clear supports & learning outcomes (this wasn’t done in the last few years)
    - GA positions are an educational value added, 30% of placements are currently in Student Success/Academic affairs
    - Ezel Crawford temping as GA, permanent 16.5 hr position dedicated to grad studies has been appointed.
    - GA postings for Fall will be up next week.
  + CGS proposal has been submitted to Dean, but unsure of the status
  + Change in independent study form proposal had some concerns
    - Why was graduate Dean not signing?
  + Provost feedback about graduate dean:
    - agree w/ idea that work of graduate dean should be done in provost office
    - do not agree that it should be a full-time separate position. It should be a part-time assignment.
* Open Discussion
  + Very confusing try to translate undergrad policies to graduate
    - Does grad stuff go through CAP?
  + Communication is key and it is not streamlined for grad
    - There should be one person who understands how everything grad works; having it split among multiple people means that it won’t function as a whole.
  + Gaby has been serving in the role, but role has too much for her to handle on her own on top of other responsibilities
  + The person doing the job needs to understand everything about grad programs
  + Fragmentation causes a lot of energy to be used just finding answers, rather than being applied to helping students. This decision shows a lack of commitment to grad programs.
  + Who is going to pay attention to the growth needs?
  + Graduate committee should write a written response to Gaby and provost and deans.
  + Perhaps this needs to be deferred until there is a new provost & P&E process is complete.
  + P&E process
    - There are 16 graduate programs/concentrations under review which is significant. Located in 2 schools – arts & sciences and Feinstein school for ed & dev
    - Accuracy of data needs to be evaluated (application #s and acceptance #s are very similar)
    - Undergrad data shows evidence for opportunity, grad data does not.
    - Are there flaws in the data in other areas? Ex: Fully matriculated students are the only ones tracked. Is productivity/efficiency being tracked based on graduation rate?
    - Shouldn't we be asking why more students aren’t applying to RIC grad programs? How can we increase #s?
    - We need to ascertain the purpose of the productivity and efficiency process.
    - Is this the direction that the institution is going in? That certain grad programs will be phased out?
    - Why are we not working to advance the careers of first-gen students like we do for undergraduates?
    - Grad committee should ensure that this feedback is shared with the Program review committee.
  + Notes Gaby will share with the provost:
    - The committee believes that allotting time to a graduate AP (concentrated in a single role) is a demonstrated commitment to graduate studies. In addition the concentration of the duties in one role allows for attention to how policy changes and development impact grad, eases wayfinding for graduate directors and ensures assistance for graduate students is there when they need it.
  + Executive committee meets in 2 weeks – Sean will draft a letter to the Provost. Send Sean an email if you have any ideas.

Adjournment: 11:16 am

Minutes submitted by Lucia Perluck

Zoom:

https://ri-college.zoom.us/j/4778949721?pwd=VGRONUwyczZSTGxnakttazhDL3NHdz09&omn=86570618521