

Minutes

Graduate Committee Meeting

Virtual Meeting

November 1st, 2024

10:00am-11:30am

Present:

Sean Cote, Charlie Boisvert, Julie Horwitz, Aswood Bousseau, Laura Stambaugh, Natasha Feinberg, Leonardo Pinheiro, Leslie Schuster, Gabriela Torres

1. Call to Order
2. Report of the Chair
   1. How was open house?
      1. Counseling was busy, had a consistent flow & many attendees. Consistent to last several years.
      2. Leo said small turnout for his dept but the presentation looked very professional.
      3. If we can combine aesthetics with proper planning (date, time) it could be really great.
      4. A lot of faculty/students were in class
      5. How was it publicized? We used to do a lot to bring outside people in. Not a lot of info shared, worried about redundancy when inviting folks to come
      6. We no longer have outside schools coming in for grad event.
      7. Would we have the budget to do 2 big open houses? Yes, we should.
3. Report of Vice Provost
   1. We need to define what governance model we’ll use for grad.
      1. What have been your thoughts as you’ve looked through the models I’ve shared? Are any of them viable?
      2. Grad dean is not respected among other deans. Graduate dean is currently a part-time position but it should be full-time in order to represent the grad student body and grow the programs.
      3. We need to hear more from students, and for them to know where to go to be heard.
   2. Where does grad fit within the financial restraints?
      1. In many ways, grad studies don’t generate revenue (for example, the GA program)
      2. Accredited programs that run classes of <20 students run at a loss.
      3. How do we establish duties for a full-time dean that justify the position?
      4. Grad is important because of what we do, not income.
      5. RIC ranks the highest in social mobility in the region
      6. Who is bearing the cost of GA’s? Should be built into the budget for each department.
   3. Response:
      1. GA’s provide crucial tasks that would require an administrative assistant otherwise.
      2. Grad classes run in the evenings – what would be happening in the space otherwise? That’s how you look at cost and overhead.
      3. Maybe we should have an executive committee meet and come up with a first draft.
      4. Grad faculty should be involved too.
      5. Great template from University of Mexico
      6. There's value added in having a vice provost and not a dean, because they sit slightly above the dean.
   4. Ombudsman position
      1. Lexie has official training which allows her to participate in policy changes that she sees students dealing with.
   5. Less ownness on students paying for degrees and more on grants/programs paying for degrees – requires dedicated time of someone.
4. Open Discussion
   1. Sean has an outline of duties for vice provost to grad committee
   2. Julie put together a [Google Doc](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BEQTMBt9LMeIhBBc64veXR6hhojKoIFJnz1KokuVhhU/edit?tab=t.0) to collaborate on.
   3. Grad committee provides input over the next 2 weeks (by 11/14)
   4. Will be reviewed by executive committee on 11/15
   5. Gabriella would like input asap so it can be worked into the budget.
   6. What are the functions that the position must have to provide the current level of service?
5. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:18am

Zoom:

https://ri-college.zoom.us/j/4778949721?pwd=VGRONUwyczZSTGxnakttazhDL3NHdz09&omn=84681697056