



## College Graduate Committee Minutes– January 17, 2019

Minutes: 1/17/2019– 3:15 – 5:00 321 Linton

Meeting started at 3:16pm.

Attendance: Bill Hart-Davidson, Ben Lampe, Shawn Loewen, Jung-Min Lim, Chet McLeskey, Laura Borchgrevink, Ben Van Dyke, Justus Nieland, Ja'La Wourman, Amanda Lanier, Safoi Babana-Hampton, Shannon Schweitzer, Lisa Schwartzman.

Guests: Scott Becker

1. Approval of the Agenda
  - a. Additions to Agenda – no additions to the agenda.
2. Approval of 12/13/2018 Meeting Minutes – approved unanimously.
3. Dr. Scott Becker – Graduate Student Mental Health Presentation

Transition to a wellness based model, tracking trends with the undergraduate situation the last 5-6 years on university student mental health, now tracking graduate data the last half a year here and across the nation with the “healthy minds study”. Culture, socioeconomic factors, digital technology and impact on neurological, social, and emotional development, (affects everything that sits on the right hemisphere and the communication between the hemispheres). CAPS (Counseling and Psychiatric Services “clinical systems”) is now staffed better than it used to be, students are not being relocated after 1-2 sessions anymore. Currently looking at trends right now that need to be addressed before clinical systems are necessary.

Question: Connection between a supportive graduate advisor vs. a not supportive one? How does that affect the situation/student?

A: There can be over involvement, but he has seen a situation where the advisor didn't want a meeting to be focused on anything emotional – only academic based.

Public health approach, for example, when there is a culture in a department to not be supportive and stay away from their student's mental health. Example with social media contacts vs. friends who would be there for you in crisis. This model is to create a culture of support (mind body connection).

Searching for an official narrative from the top of the university to address all the mental health issues beyond just sexual assault (example: discrimination, lack of interaction with international students). Set of initiatives, leadership (Assoc. Provost for health and wellness).



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Example: Grant deadline with graduate students who have RCPD doing lab work.

### Questions & Comments:

- CeLTA: Has a safe space for TAs to meet as an initiative so they can have support with each other.
- MAFLT: Students are fully online so there is a disconnect since they are unable to meet (distance learners). Students that have failed or been asked to leave the program has greatly been surrounding mental health issues.
- Can we build the conversation with the graduate students into orientation about advisor support? Introducing them to the information and resources available to them about mental health. Also at new faculty orientation?
- Are there resources available for someone from CAPS to come talk to our graduates students and faculty? Yes, contact CAPS.
- Can you, Dr. Becker, refer us to some reading resources/materials that can be shared with the students and faculty?
- Share the presentation with the committee.

#### 4. Associate Dean's Remarks/Discussion Items

- a. Update - AAHD MFA, AIIS GRC2, LIN Course, AAAS Department proposal all approved at UCGS.
- b. Feedback on GA Budget Projection (will invite Debbie Richards next time)
  - i. Feedback by the end of the month – general questions?
    - PHL – Doesn't exactly match the number of lines sent out by Bill in September. Also the questions asked to respond don't necessarily correlate with the TA lines and recruitment for their students.
- c. Grad Committee/Mentoring Discussion
  - i. Thomas Jeitschko has tasked Bill with part of the Grad Schools strategic plan process and lead a working group to gather information and issues guidance on "what happens when graduate committee's go bad?" We see conflict between the student and the advisor, or between the committee members, etc.
  - ii. Do you have a formal guidance or policy in your unit or handbook that you have done/do to address these situations?
  - iii. There are official grievance policies, but nothing in the overall graduate handbook to address these situations.
- d. Feedback on College Policy Questions
  - i. Do you have a specific policy for these scenarios?
  - ii. Medical Withdrawals – MSU doesn't have one.
    - Example: What is the process for reinstatement for a student who has had a medical withdrawal? Who sets the standard?
    - A strong number of these are mental health medical withdrawals.



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- iii. Add-drop deadlines with block tuition – Probably won't affected graduate students in most cases, but can in a few circumstances.
  - There is the open/add time vs. dropping the course timeline. Currently the policy states they have to drop by the end of the first week (5 days).
  - What happens if they are attending a graduate seminar that only meets once a week?
  - Is there enough information out there to help students make these decisions earlier, for example syllabi listed?
  - How does this affect graduate students who take 400 level courses?

### 5. Roundtable/Other Business

- For the DCF nominations, can we ask the people rank them again in the department to be helpful for the committees?
- How are we providing writing support for students?
- How are your application levels? Are they about the same? Higher, lower?
  
- AAHD: Moratorium the last year for the MFA program, we can accept 5 and the deadline is still another week from now.
  
- RCS: Spanish is doing better than last year, three times the number of enrollment than past years, French still needs one more spot to fill.
  
- SLS down just a little bit from previous years, but 5 accepted and the applicants is full of a good group of students.
  
- Theatre: waiting for a few events this month that will help recruitment.
  
- English: Pretty similar to previous years, and it's a strong and diverse pool.
  
- MAFLT: About 6 a semester; maintaining. 3 deadlines per year.
  
- PHL: Number of applicants are slightly lower, but they are more diverse than they were in the past.
  
- WRAC: Down a few numbers, but the quality of the cohort overall was good.
  
- Registrar – overall applications are down 30%. -

Meeting adjourned at 4:55pm.