March 09, 2023  10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  President’s Conference Room

Council in Attendance:
Catherine Dunlop (Letters)
Brennan Reeves (Office of International Programs)
Jennifer Thomson (Faculty Senate)
Craig Ogilvie (Dean of The Graduate School)
Katey Franklin (Health & Human Development)
Amy Reines (Sciences)
Wade Hill (Nursing)
Sweeney Windchief (Education)
Heidi Koenig (Student Representative)
Michael Everts (Architecture)
Brian Rossmann (Library)
Stephan Warnat (Engineering)

Also in Attendance:
Abby Sophir (Graduate School)
Donna Negaard (Graduate School)

Absent
Jane Mangold (Agriculture)
Marc Giullian (Business)
Arts Representative

Meeting started at 10:00 a.m.

February 23, 2023 minutes
• Motion to approve by Reines, Everts 2nd, 10 pass, 1 abstention

Announcements

• Update from the Dean
  o Applications and admissions cycle
    ▪ 1,830 for summer or fall, increase of 172 compared to last year (10% increase)
    ▪ Approx 50:50 international to US applicants
    ▪ 54% with admission decisions have gotten a positive offer, slightly higher than last year
    ▪ International students being denied at twice the rate of US students
    ▪ Big push in partnership with departments to get decisions out sooner, students who had yet not heard is at 43% this year versus 71% at this time last year
    ▪ Q: How does offer rate compare to yield rate?
• Yield rate has been going down in the last few years
  ▪ Q: How difficult is it for international students to get visa?
  ▪ Rising approval rates in the geographic locations being targeted
  ▪ Can put together a report, there are ways for students to get around long wait times by traveling to other countries
  ▪ Q: April 15 CGS national agreement
  ▪ Students with a financial offer can’t be required to make a decision before that date

• Faculty Senate update (Thomson)
  o Department Head evaluation survey going on currently
  o Update from library: Change of subscription to Elsevier journals, still paid by library
  o Revisions to Student Safety Questionnaire- students will be asked about some misdemeanors in addition to felonies and must certify if charged after application to update the university; goal is to keep the campus safe
    ▪ Dean Ogilvie: Presence of safety questionnaires has an impact on whether student actually applies; criminal justice system in US disproportionately impacts people of color, higher misdemeanor rate; very cautious of expanding this questionnaire to include misdemeanors; national conversations to remove this at the application stage and have admitted students submit answers before they arrive on campus
    ▪ Thomson: Slight expansion of misdemeanors; Thomson can share the survey; senate not being asked to vote
  o Threats to QSA
    ▪ Threat of mass shooting associated with an event, as well as anti-LGBTQ+ and anti-POC email
    ▪ Dean Ogilvie: reached out to QSA to fast-track community mini grants
    ▪ Police presence at events is standard for diverse populations

Old Business

• Appeal policy language (policy committee update)
  o Update from Subcommittee
    ▪ Switched order to place decisions before exceptions
    ▪ Suggestion to add sentence focused on ethics and fairness of process,
      ▪ Donna: Student Conduct Code includes sample language,
      ▪ Recommendation not to use the word ‘ethics’
    ▪ Suggestion to delete the sentence on the dean being the last appeal.
    ▪ Q: Is it different if the advisor is the department head?
      ▪ Donna: In these situations when it gets sticky, grad school works with the students
    ▪ Q: Is it necessary to have a letter from the committee chair?
      ▪ Reliant on committee chair to collaborate in these situations
      ▪ Sometimes a new committee chair is assigned, in which case they would submit the letter
      ▪ When student doesn’t have a supportive committee chair, appeal would be paused to go through committee chair process
- Provide an appeal flow chart
  - Subcommittee will take on this task
  - Subcommittee will come back next week with updates, ready for a vote
- Learning outcomes for credits such as professional paper, thesis/dissertation credits (curriculum committee update)
  - Handout provided: Example from University of Alberta, bullet points can be used as guidelines for departments for course level outcomes
  - Description for these courses must be flexible and broad enough to capture a range of activities
  - Suggestion to use bullet points with: “One or more of the following should be completed...”
  - Q: How will this impact students?
    - Opportunity to provide clarity to students of what is expected
    - May be helpful to include language specific to the stage of research the student is in
  - Perhaps add in the ETD language about broad variety of epistemologies
- Non-Profit Certificate, level I proposal
  - Tabled, waiting on update
- Draft Policy on doctoral entrance exams (Ogilvie)
  - Approx half of doctoral programs have qualifier exams, results of which lead to some students being dismissed from programs. For most students, thequals delay their engagement in research.
  - Updates since last meeting
    - Added mathematics dept as having a qualifier
    - Included impact on AI/AN and Hispanic students
    - Rather than trying to define different exams, shifted focus to results → proposal is student can't be dismissed solely based on exam results
    - Departments can keep format of exams and use as a formative tool
    - Literature provided was about qualifier and comprehensive exams
  - Four departments have sent comments
  - When it comes to senate, Thomson asks for faculty on grad council to come speak to this rather than administrators
  - Hazing element– in the year students are taking these exams, they are being accepted or rejected into a lab, causes significant stress for students, how to create protection for students and confidentiality in exam scores?
  - Student’s faculty advisor and their committee would make decision on whether a student should be dismissed; students can underperform on formal exams, which can create a dilemma for the student’s faculty adviser
    - Suggestion to frame the policy as giving PIs more autonomy
    - Warnat: Should be up to the supervisor to bring student up to the level they require, encourages strong relationship with supervisor
  - Next steps:
    - Send new version out to departments who have sent comments
    - Dean Ogilvie speak to department heads and gather their input on the policy. Also speaking to the physics department after spring break
- Political science 12-credit graduate certificate, nonprofit management (update)
  - Tabled
New Business

• Draft guidelines on Changing Advisor
  o Donna has a process that helps students change advisors, students may not
    know these steps and so the proposed guidelines can help.
  o GSLC feedback: Want confidentiality rights front and center, including links in
    policy
    ▪ Donna cannot hold confidential conversations because of mandatory
      reporting, but privacy taken seriously.
    ▪ She asks permission from student on how to proceed and who to talk to
    ▪ Often involves coaching the student and explaining options.
    ▪ Even with Title IX investigations, students have considerable autonomy
      on decisions.
  o Q: Challenge for international students to understand language
    ▪ Suggestion to create an acculturation course, required for international
      students, about American higher ed power dynamics and the resources
      they have when issues arise.
  o Q: Who takes on the students that need new advisors?
    ▪ Sometimes department head has to step in to help with these situations
    ▪ Goal is to find someone to work with in the department, not precluded to
      get a research person off-campus
  o Q: How many students are going through this process?
    ▪ At least 10 per year

Update from Subcommittees

Adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Next scheduled meeting – March 23, 2023
(Dunlap will be out of town, Reines will run the meeting)

Subcommittees

• Policy and Procedures Committee (Hill, Mangold, Everts, Rossman)
• Curriculum Committee (Reines, Warnat, Thomson, Reeves)
• Governance Committee (Dunlop, Giulian, Franklin, Sweeney)
  • Diversity Equity and Inclusion committee