

Graduate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
April 22, 2021  
MEETING LOCATION: Online through Microsoft TEAMS

Present: Becky da Cruz, Herb Fiester (proxy for Matt Carter), Linda Most (proxy for Michelle Ritter), David Nelson, Kelly Heckaman, Luis Bejarano, Maren Clegg-Hyer, Dixie Haggard, Keith Lee, Meagan Arrastia-Chisholm, Mitch Lockhart, Zhong Lin, Matt Grant, Anne Price, Ellis Heath, Nancy Swanson, Peggy Moch, Christopher Downing, Michael Webster

Guests: Doug Farwell, Anita Davis, Ernest Smith, Justin Sanchez, Grazyna Walczak

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Becky da Cruz at 2:00 pm.

Minutes from March 18, 2021 were approved. Linda Most motioned to approve. Herb Fiester seconded. 14 voted to approve.



## Sub Committee Report

Graduate Student Success – Dr. Downing updated. Committee met and went over the survey results. 134 participants in the survey. Found out a lot of interesting results. Send Dr. Downing an email if you want the full report. One of Dr. Downing's students did a PowerPoint regarding the survey during the latest meeting. The survey was regarding what students would want to see in a Graduate Student Orientation. This will help the committee with developing an orientation for the Fall 2021 semester. One thing that they found was people were wanting to know about resources (how to get your ID, how to access Blazeview, etc.). Also looking into developing a mentoring program. One question that GEC asked Dr. Downing is what percentage are online programs vs. on campus. Dr. da Cruz noted that it is approximately 75% online students. It was discussed that hopefully we would be able to incorporate this percentage when looking into developing the orientation. For example, what services are just for online students, what services would someone need who is moving to the Valdosta area (campus classes), etc. Dr. Downing confirmed that the idea was to have separate groups for online students and one for face-to-face students.

Doctoral Program Sub-Committee – N/A

Graduate Appeals – Brief update. Still working on some of the bugs but are continuing to edit as we see various issues come up. One thing to note is that a best practice is to email outside the system if there are particular questions on a form because once you deny the form it would have to be restarted by the student.

Graduate Faculty Scholarship – Spring 2021 applications are closed. We have moved back the date for next FY dates to try to get an earlier jump on the various applications in the Fall 21. We can review on an as needed basis if you have things over the summer. We will not be able to process anything until after July 1 at this point.

Graduate Faculty Membership – Applications due March 12th, sub-committee met March 25th to discuss and vote. 13 were approved for full status, 2 recommended for temp. David Nelson motioned to approve. Linda Most seconded. 17 voted to approve. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

- The committee is looking to further simplify the Graduate Faculty application and to create more clarification. We will bring this up in the Fall after ironing out the specifics.

## Other Business/Topics from the Floor

- 1) Commencement – Have had 11 volunteer to be marshals. It will be held outside on Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> in the morning. Will have social distancing, mask requirement, no hooding, etc. It will be just like the Fall 2020 ceremony. If you are planning on attending, please let us know. We are about two weeks out and this commencement will look slightly different. We will have our own commencement speakers (pre-recorded). It will not be the President and it will not be the undergrad speakers being re-played at our ceremony. We have our own specific speaker.



b) Smart Measures – Shared PowerPoint and talked briefly. It is surveying students on the non-cognitive issues that they may run into taking online courses. Issues they may