**Graduate Programs Council**

**Minutes for April 16, 2014**

**Present:** Marcia Blicharz, Lisa DeMarsico, Matthew Hall, Susan Hydro, Brenda Leake, Claire Lindberg, Shridevi Rao, Stuart Roe

## Excused: Dionne Hallback, Lisa Ortiz-Vilarelle, Erika Shultes

1. Drs. Cathy Liebars and James Beyers presented a new STEM focused MAT program offered, in part, through a grant provided by the Woodrow Wilson Foundation. The program is a revised version of the current Secondary Education MAT programs (in Math and Science) that more specifically focuses on STEM instruction and fulfills the grant requirements (including a yearlong student teaching placement). Some currently offered MAT courses have remained as part of the program while others have been redeveloped. All STEM focused and Equity and Diversity coursework has been approved. Revisions and recommendations to the Special Education course are being finalized. As part of the grant, students receive a $30K stipend from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation and pay reduced tuition to TCNJ. The program will be approved by CAP, upon GPC’s recommendation, and is with the State of New Jersey for final approval.

Discussion related to number of credits, cohort size, yearlong student teaching, interest in program, cost in comparison to other Woodrow Wilson grant programs in New Jersey colleges and universities, and special education and literacy coursework within the program ensued.

After discussion, the committee voted to recommend the program for approval with the following recommendations:

* Work to incorporate equity and diversity issues throughout the curriculum, in addition to the stand alone class on those topics.
* Include instruction regarding positive behavior supports at the individual, classroom and school level.
* Differentiate instruction related to adolescent development between pre and early adolescence as there is a growing body of literature to support the need for this differentiation.
1. The minutes were approved from April 2, 2014 with corrections.
2. Report from Graduate Studies:

Graduate Student Appreciation Week was a success with over 60 graduate students and faculty in attendance at the annual Cupcakes and Conversation hour.

Reminders that Graduate Studies will be processing applications for review through the May and August deadlines and that Orientations will be held on May 7, June 5 and August 14.

GPC’s role in approving new programs was discussed and clarified by a document generated by Steering indicating that the GPC does in fact need to review and provide recommendation to Steering and CAP on new graduate level programs.

A reminder for faculty to review and consider attending the Open Forums on “Revised Preliminary Recommendation on Academic Standing and Dismissal” and “Preliminary Recommendation for a Grade Appeal Policy”. This information was sent through the faculty listserve.

Future online open house sessions with Nursing and Elementary Education were discussed.

1. The committee plans to review a second daft and discuss dissemination of the “Graduate Non-Traditional Courses Survey” prepared by Dionne Hallback and Stuart Roe at the next meeting.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Lisa DeMarsico