**Minutes**

**Graduate Program Council**

**March 2, 2016**

In Attendance: A. Amtzis, N. Ball, S. Carroll, M. Hall D. Hallback, S. Hydro, C. Kartoz, C. Nucatola, L. Ortiz, J. Schwarz, I. Zake

Excused: A. Maresco, A. Nase

I. Announcements

Lisa Ortiz welcomed new student member Caroline Nucatola.

A quorum was not yet present at this time for approval of minutes as several members had notified that they would need to arrive late due to other meetings.

II. New Business

The council welcomed Maureen Connolly from the Department of Educational Administration and Secondary Education. Maureen was coming to GPC to share proposed changes to the MAT Secondary Education programs in English and Social Studies and to seek recommendations and ultimately GPC endorsement.

Maureen explained that they hope for changes to become effective for summer 2017. She stated that changes are proposed 1) to match changes already made to the Woodrow Wilson version; 2) to meet state mandate for year-long student teaching. She noted that TCNJ was one of the only schools not currently requiring year-long student teaching; and 3) to help address responses from student surveys –students saw some courses as more valuable than others, really wanted to be certified earlier than August. She, also, noted that NCATE data revealed there were content area knowledge gaps.

Matt Hall shared that undergraduates are sent to state for certification in May.

Nita Ball inquired as to the number of students. Approx. 12. She suggested that it is possible to pre-post a degree to the transcript once the student completes requirements and that this has been done for certification during the summer. (Conferral of degree would not be officially posted until August, but transcript could not completion.)

Maureen explained the proposed changes and reasons for those changes as indicated in the document provided.

Matt Hall explained the new changes from the state, requiring pre-clinical, clinical 1, and clinical 2 and noted pre-clinical required 50 hours in school setting before being required to teach in clinicals. This was noted as difficult to accomplish in a graduate program. Maureen explained that this might need to be front loaded before schools let out for summer.

A good deal of discussion continued on thoughts regarding ways to meet the knowledge gap with the content area. Issues raised included faculty load, where the course would be located, whether or not an audit of a course could be included, implications on tuition, liability matters regarding roster, etc. Options discussed included: a graduate level special topics or independent study cross-listed with undergraduate content area course that student would attend. It was agreed this is complicated and many factors would need to be considered.

Maureen explained decisions in cutting certain courses, especially where content was already considered to be included elsewhere in the program. Stuart Carroll referenced that ELEM/Early might want to look at this, as well.

There was some discussion about the tight spring semester and possible use of winter or multiple courses per summer session. Ieva Zake asked about use of BL/OL. It was noted that 521 is a BL offering.

Jill Schwarz raised a concern about removal of EDFN and the cultural diversity content. Stuart noted that 501 was supposed to include this component and that this might need to be noted and addressed. Nita suggested making the Int 4 credits instead of 6 and using 2 for a diversity component. Alan Amtzis suggested that if diversity were embedded in other courses, this might be addressed.

There was discussion about the possibility of breaking the certification component out with the option to roll into a master’s degree. Maureen, Susan, and Stuart noted this has been suggested and would allow TCNJ to be more competitive.

Focus was on the following areas:

-Increase of credits for internship for increase in clinical hours (though overall program reducing total credits from 36 to 33)

-The challenge of the knowledge gap

-Reservations regarding the removal of EDFN

-Solving the graduation timeline dilemma, which Maureen seems to have addressed

Lisa Ortiz indicated that she would follow up with Maureen on GPC’s recommendations.

III. Graduate Programs Update - Susan Hydro:

There was not time for an update.

IV. Old Business

There was not time for old business.

Adjourned at 2:50pm

Minutes submitted by Susan Hydro