**Minutes**

**Graduate Programs Council**

**September 2nd, 2015**

In Attendance: A. Amtzis, S. Carroll, S. Hydro, L. Ortiz-Vilarelle (Outgoing Vice-Chair, facilitator), C. Rajam, E. Teixeira

Not in attendance: G. Seaton

Excused: E. Ball, M. Hall (Outgoing Chair), D. Hallback, J. Schwarz

1. Following member introductions, the Council reviewed its role and the status of its 2015-16 membership. S. Hydro noted that the description of membership currently posted to the Academic Affairs website is outdated and should have been replaced by an approved revision submitted prior to this year. Ortiz-Vilarelle will inquire and report back.
2. Ortiz-Vilarelle reviewed GPC activity for 2014-15 including survey of students, research and recommendations on graduate assistantships, and the review of new graduate programs in Deaf Education, Public Health, and STEM. C. Rajam noted that the recommendation on GAs has moved on to Provost Taylor rather than to Steering because it was a GPC initiative and did not require, or follow from a formal charge.
3. The Council was unable to conduct a review of the Urban Education Graduate Program due to the fact that the presentation must be rescheduled. Pending confirmation with Tabitha Dell’Angelo, this item will appear on the agenda for the Sept 16th meeting.
4. The Council was unable to conduct nominations for chair and vice-chair due to lack of quorum. This item will appear on the agenda for the Sept 16th meeting pending quorum.
5. S. Hydro’s report from Graduate Studies included dates for fall Open House events, admissions deadlines, application numbers to date, and prospective student registrations with program breakout. The report also highlighted:
   1. The impact of the new State of NJ DOE requirements for Basic Skills comprehension on initial certification programs: Test scores will now be required for admission to an initial certification program. A letter specifying the requirements and information about testing went to 38 newly admitted initial certification students. No other programs are impacted.
   2. The first Graduate Coordinator Webinar: A recording can be found at <https://vimeo.com/125704247>. Password: Graduate (case sensitive).
   3. The new survey of non-attendees: This fall, Graduate Studies will request feedback from admits who choose not to attend TCNJ, or choose another institution over TCNJ.
   4. The developing conversation on English language proficiency requirements for international graduate students: A charge may be forthcoming. In the vein of forthcoming GPC activity, C. Rajam raised the possibility of developing a set of distinctive graduate attributes that distinguish TCNJ’s graduate programs as competitive options in the region. S. Hydro inquired about how the recent study of comparator MA programs can be helpful for this.

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Ortiz-Vilarelle