SSU
Graduate Council Meeting
August 27, 2013
12:30 pm
VPAA’s conference room
Present: Bell, Choi, Cox, Hardy, Jahmani, Ouanlous, Pride, Rukmana

I. Dr. Hardy called the meeting to order.
II. Dr. Cox agreed to act as recording secretary
III. Minutes from last meeting (March 26, 2013) were not approved, because no one had looked over them; Dr. Pride agreed to re-send them for approval at the next meeting.
IV. Verification of Graduate Council Members
   a. A list was circulated and Dr. Kim and Dr. Anderson were missing from the list of current council members.
   b. The next meeting will be an open graduate faculty meeting to all graduate faculty and not only the 9 voting grad council members.
V. Proposed Amendment to by-laws
   a. Replace “dean” with “director” throughout. Motion for approval by Ouanlous; seconded by Rukmana; passed
   b. On “Recommendation of the program coordinator/director for appointment or reappointment to the graduate faculty” form, add “(if applicable)” to first signature line; change “College Graduation Director” to “Director of Graduate Studies”. Motion to vote for changes: Rukmana; seconded by Pride. Passed.
VI. Nominations for standing committees
   a. Nominations tabled until full graduate faculty meeting.
   b. Discussion regarding changing by-laws to reflect need for representation on committees by all 3 colleges. Discussion revolved around narrowing the wording or leaving it intentionally broad. No motions made.
VII. Graduate Faculty applications
   a. Dr. Jens Nejstgaard, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, application for adjunct graduate faculty. Rukmana moved to accept; Cox seconded; passed.
   b. Dr. Sue Ebanks, Savannah State University, application for graduate faculty. Rukmana moved to accept; Bell seconded; passed.
VIII. Dual degree
   a. At the last graduate faculty meeting, a proposal for a joint MPA/MSUP program was approved; Dr. Rukmana requests that that proposal now needs to be followed up on.
   b. Discussion regarding a specific student case for obtaining both MPA/MSUP degrees, because the dual program has not been approved yet. It’s not within the purview of the graduate council to grant exceptions to catalog, so Dr. Rukmana was provided other options to deal with that student
IX. NEW issue – chain of command
   a. During the discussion in VII, a new issue was brought up. In the past, the graduate council has not had curriculum changes approved by the SSU
Faculty Senate. Dr. Ouandlous stated that that has been done in error. The graduate council asked Dr. Hardy to investigate the correct procedures and report back to the graduate council.

X. Graduate student issues
a. Specific case re: a foreign student getting a job and thus losing her housing (per her visa) – Dr. Hardy reported that he is looking into it.

b. Student transportation to the GA Coastal Center. The Chatham Area Transit Authority is free to SSU students with an ID, so Dr. Hardy was going to look at obtaining bus schedules and getting them to graduate students. He also noted that free bus service should be added to agenda for graduate student orientation.

c. Graduate student government association – is there one? Some graduate students have expressed an interest in forming one. 2 different issues arose from this conversation:
   i. Student clubs/organizations – difficulties in forming them with current Student Affairs’s requirement to have students with a minimum number of hours to create a new club, yet graduate students are only here for ~2 years. Dr. Hardy will check with Student Affairs to find out if there can be exceptions for graduate student clubs/organizations.
   ii. Student Government Association – Dr. Hardy will look into whether one has existed in the past and what is needed to have it activated/re-activated.

XI. Dual Enrollment – MPA
a. Clarification was requested on the requirement for undergraduates to be able to enroll in the MPA program (see p. 32 of the graduate catalog).

Meeting adjourned at 1:45pm.