



Graduate Council Meeting

Agenda: September 18, 2024

3:30 pm to 5:00 pm

STCT 419

Attendees: Amanda Birnbaum, Brad van Eeden-Moorefield, Matt Shurts, Meena Mahadevan, Kayla O'Donnell, Anna Feldman, Tarika Daftary Kapur, Emily Douglas, Yasir Ibrahim, Dominique Blake, Matt Schuler, Nina Goodey, Hao Liu, Melissa Spigelman, Scott Richards, Yi Luo, Rashmi Jain, Vidya Atal, Nicole Koppel, Te Wu, Brenda Marshall, Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Chris King, Michele Fisher, Kenneth Sumner, Debbie Reynoso, Timothy Hart, Dana Levitt, Jessica Brandt, Ronald Sharps, Elizabeth Rosini, Lesley Sylvan, Stephen Bienkiewicz, Sree Chandana Kurella, Susan Marino, Victoria Speiser, Adriana Garcia, Arthur Carlson, Michael Stuhlmiller, Rebecca Newton, Jonathan Koppell.

- Opening remarks and introduction of GC leadership
 - Welcoming remarks to the first GC meeting of the year from Rashmi.
 - Ken: update from TGS
 - o Held a successful graduate summit last year on program vitality, streamlining admissions, roles of GPCs/DPDs, and student affairs. Will continue this work and hold another summit, along with two graduate student conferences in the coming year.
 - o The Graduate School received more money in the budget to support graduate students/student travel. Also, will do more with career services for graduate students.
- Reference to reports (sub-committees, retreat, TGS) on Canvas
- Announcement of committee assignments and chairs
 - Chairs for the committees are: Vidya Atal for Curriculum, Yi Luo and Chris King as co-chairs for Policy, and Tarika Daftary Kapur for Student Affairs.
 - The sheet with committee assignments was passed around the room.
- Vote on the following curriculum proposal:
 1. Alteration to the MA in Communication Sciences and Disorders – Speech Language Pathology Concentration
 - o Was a considerable overhaul of the program with a 30% reduction in credits and improved alignment with accreditation standards. Should increase marketability of the program.
 - o The curriculum committee is recommending it for approval. The alteration proposal passed unanimously.

- Preliminary discussion of resources to strengthen R2 status prior to arrival of President Koppell.
 - Must balance university resources for undergraduate services versus support for doctoral programs.
 - Criteria for Carnegie classification is changing where Montclair is approaching R1 status for research expenditure but not for production of research doctorates. Our number of doctoral graduates has increased (up to 54 this year), however some of them were professional doctorates.
 - Can we be more intentional to fully realize R2 research productivity across campus? We need to keep this in mind when hiring faculty and setting aside space for research activity.
 - Doctoral programs have traditionally been built on strong master's programs. We could evaluate program vitality but also look strategically at the market for opportunities to create doctoral programs. Would like to see doctoral programs represented in more colleges across campus.
 - We need to upgrade the technology systems used to track graduate student progress, particularly with respect to the doctoral pipeline.

- Update graduate admissions (Timothy Hart)
 - There has been tremendous growth in international students with 315 enrolled this fall (214 from India). The fall 2024 term is the first semester with our partnership with INTO (partnership for recruiting international students). Still, we did have quite a few international students who enrolled, then dropped out.
 - Also looking to work with another group to recruit graduate students for online programs.
 - Domestic enrollment is up for graduate students across campus.
 - The Graduate Admissions Office is applying a "high touch" approach with a lot of contact with prospective students from the time of first inquiry through enrollment.

- Discussion on optimizing support for graduate education with the President. **(4PM onwards, President Koppell join the meeting)**
 - President Koppell shared his vision for strengthening infrastructure for R2 status on our way towards R1 status.
 - The initial Carnegie criteria for R1 was largely based on external research funding of roughly 115 million dollars with a dynamic cut-off stemming from a cluster analysis of schools. Montclair is at a disadvantage in this scenario without an engineering or medical school.
 - Updated criteria for Carnegie classification involve a static line with a lower threshold of roughly 50 million dollars of research expenditure. The trajectory of Montclair's research expenditure is going up and may reach the revised threshold for R1 status.
 - The other factor for R1 status is production of Ph.D. graduates. Under the new criteria we would have to graduate 70 doctoral students per year (some professional doctorates would now be considered in this number).

- At Montclair we would like to produce research-based doctorates but also consider the job market which has more openings for professional doctorates. President Koppell suggested that we look at where we have strong programs on campus and grow from there. Two potential areas could be behavioral psychology and physical therapy.
- Another issue is space for research activities. The university is currently evaluating use of space and building facilities for interdisciplinary research. Might also consider partnering with corporate research (i.e. pharma in north Jersey).
- We need additional support for writing grant proposals. MSU faculty are successful in receiving grants, we just need more faculty writing proposals.
- Research universities can offer a unique experience for students when research is integrated into the educational experience. We are becoming a high-quality research-intensive institution.
- The graduate council should think about our doctoral offerings in an innovative and strategic way.
- Questions for Dr. Koppell
 - *How do we move more undergraduate Pell grant students into our graduate programs?* This would take financial resources. We can build support into external grants that would free up money to support graduate students. It would be helpful to set up principles/guidelines for incorporating student support into grant proposals.
 - *What can we do to better attract research-intensive faculty, despite the high teaching load?* Montclair values both teaching and research. We can be flexible in how we assign teaching load so that faculty do not have as many preps.
 - *There seems to be a bottle neck getting from associate to full rank. It is also difficult filling GPC/DPD roles because the time cuts into research.* People could be hired for a teaching emphasis with release for administrative roles.
 - *How can we strengthen our efforts to recruit top notch students? Would it be possible to have a few accelerated admits with an assistantship with a special name (highly esteemed position or fellowship)?* The GC could play a role in developing policies for admission decisions. Ken said that GA allocations will be announced in October this year.
 - A suggestion was made to invite Stefanie Brachfeld to present data at a GC meeting.
- Adjourn

Remaining GC Meetings for AY 2024-25: Oct 23rd, Nov 13th, Dec 11th, Jan 27th, Feb 19th, Mar 19th, Apr 23rd, May 5th