Present: Sarah Vital, Berna Aksu, Jiv Kale, Rebecca Proehl (acting chair)

Special Guests: Chris Sindt; Ken Otter and Marguerite Welch (Graduate Leadership)

Absent with notice: Linda Herkenhoff

Minutes from previous meeting were approved previously via email.

1. Announcements

   a. Discontinuance of Reading/Language Arts Program in KSOE, which GPSEPC previously endorsed, will be reviewed by the Academic Senate February 11 and formally discontinued following their vote.

   b. Chris Sindt announced that Provost Dobkin will announce the transfer of both undergraduate and graduate programs in Leadership from the School of Liberal Arts to the Kalmanovitz School of Education effective July 1, 2015.

2. Old Business

   a. MFA in Dance certificate summary: Berna shared a summary and response to the proposal from MFA in Dance for implementation of certificate options. GPSEPC agrees to endorse this proposal, and Berna will share as an announcement at the next available Academic Senate meeting.

   b. Course evaluations: Berna will report back to the Academic Senate that the issue of course evaluations remains unresolved and of major concern to the GPSEPC. In particular, response rate is a concern, as is the control of the timing of evaluation release to students. GPSEPC will re-evaluate next steps after the Academic Senate meets in February.

2. New Business:

   a. MA Leadership new course / concentration proposals: Marguerite Welch and Ken Otter visited and shared a history of the Graduate Leadership program, and the proposed changes to add additional concentrations.

      i. The first concentration (Social Justice) will begin its third cohort; two
additional concentrations (Organizational Learning and Change, and Coaching and Facilitation) are slated to begin in Fall 2015. Two additional concentrations, to be reviewed by GPSEPC at a later time, are hoped to begin in January 2016.

ii. To better accommodate the additional emphasis of these concentrations, and for all concentrations to continue as a cohesive group with the program as a whole, the calendar has been redesigned and re-sequencing of courses. As a result, the program will increase in length from 19 months to 23.

iii. Both Leadership representatives expressed little concern that the changes would deter enrollment, and are confident that the expanded offerings will increase interest and place SMC in a unique place in the market to provide desired and practical areas of study.

iv. Eventually, Leadership would like to be able to offer stand alone certificates (aligned with national organizations), further increasing the profile of the program and bringing in more students. Those are longer term goals; for now, concentrations within the degree are the sole focus.

v. Leadership representatives were asked if the two concentrations proposed for Fall 2015 would necessitate additional faculty. They answered that these two concentrations are covered by current faculty, but the two additional, to be reviewed later, would require additional faculty. Those details are still being defined.

vi. Short of a charge of the committee to formally review and/or approve new concentrations, GPSEPC reviewed the documents provided, asked additional questions for clarification, and ultimately endorsed the proposals.

b. Academic Regulations for graduate students: Per request from the Chair of the Academic Senate, GPSEPC reviewed the charge of the current Admissions and Academic Regulations Committee (AARC) and agreed that the GPSEPC already handles much of the business of that committee as related to graduate programs. We agree that the AARC can be defined as covering only undergraduate programs.

i. We formally propose to the Academic Senate the following: alter the language of the Faculty Handbook (section 1.7.4.8.c) to strike “and graduate and professional.” The passage would simply read: “After investigations and review, make recommendations to the Academic
ii. The members of GPSEPC feel that the current language of the charge for the GPSEPC in the Faculty Handbook already adequately covers the role expected of the AARC as it relates to graduate and professional programs. Should AARC feel anything needs to be further defined in the GPSEPC charge to ensure all tasks are officially transferred to GPSEPC, we would want to know so as to propose further changes to the Faculty Handbook language.

- Minutes recorded and submitted by Sarah Vital (February 9, 2015)
- Approved via email by GSPEPC February 20, 2015