**Minutes of the Graduate Student Advisory Council Meeting**

**Web Ex**

**Tuesday, February 15, 2022**

**1:30 PM**

Attendees: Humra Ahsan Theresa Gorospe, Gabrielle E. Jones, Tiffany Spisak, Sal Sanders, Angie Urmson Jeffries

Not Present: Adam T. Klein, Joseph Spurio,

1. Update on Three Minute Thesis Competition

Angie provided a brief update on the Three Minute Thesis Competition. We received 7 submissions which are currently being evaluated by faculty judges. We plan to make the announcement of winners at the end of next week. Videos will be available online after the announcement. Angie will update the group when the links are live.

1. Committee Reports:
   1. Graduate Council Representatives: Theresa Gorospe, Gabrielle E. Jones, and Joseph Spurio. Representatives are communicating to ensure one member is present at each Graduate Council meeting. Students reported they enjoyed hearing the discussion. Dean Sanders suggested that the Grad Council representatives could report back to this group regarding items discussed at the meetings.
   2. Graduate Curriculum Committee: Tiffany Spisak. Tiffany reported that she has participated on the review of curriculum items. Angie mentioned the increase in items this year.
   3. Grievance Committee: Theresa Gorospe, Gabrielle E. Jones, Adam T. Klein, Tiffany Spisak, Joseph Spurio. We are happy to report that this committee has not had any grievances for review to date.
   4. Admission and Appeals Committee: Adam Klein. Angie reported that Adam has participated in 4-5 appeal reviews in the last few months.
2. Discussion items from Colleges

A GSAC member raised a concern of the cost of required books and the lack of availability of required books at Maag Library. Students are instead seeking online tools in the place of books. Dean Sanders cautioned that it could be difficult to be successful in a class if the book is in deed necessary. Dean Sanders also reported a campus initiative to keep the cost of books low. There is a push to encourage faculty to make book decisions early so that lower cost options are available.

The issue was raised regarding the lack of response from a faculty member and a virtual assistant. Dean Sanders suggested that it is best to first contact the faculty member and if the situation is not resolved to follow up with the chair and then if necessary the College Dean. This experience should be indicated on the course evaluation. Dean Sanders asked that he be informed if a lack of response continues to be an issue.

The new Dean for WCBA has arrived. Dean Wilkinson attended the Professional Career Day and both she and the students are enjoying getting to know each other.

Representatives noted a need for students to know the GSAC role and how to reach them. Angie will request that representatives send a photo to be place on the website. She will also send an email to graduate students each term with the representatives’ names and contact info. This will inform the new students as well as serve as a reminder for continuing students.

1. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 2:05 PM