

GFEC Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 4, 2023 | 9:00 a.m. ~ 10:10 a.m.

Online via WebEx

Meeting Link: <https://sunycortland.webex.com/meet/laura.gathagan>

Present: Chris Badurek, Teagan Bradway, Austin Colluci, Kevin Dames, Laura Gathagan (chair), Lori Reichel, Peter McGinnis, Keith Newvine, Vince DeTuri, Nancy Diller, Eileen Gravani, Jennifer Martin Tse, Kim Rombach, Pam Schroeder, Marinda Souva, Jillian Tucker, Carol Van Der Karr

Absent: Marinda Souva

Guest: Rena Janke

1. Minutes from 11/20/23 meeting not yet available to review
2. Result of vote to increase the maximum credit load to 15 credit hours for Graduate Students
 - a. Vote failed: Yea = 8/Nay = 9. Concerns expressed that most graduate faculty did not vote (52 ballots were sent out).
 - b. Concern about existing program (MST-CHD) that includes semesters with credit loads that exceed 14 cr hrs. Full-time students in this program take 15 cr. hrs. in their fall and spring semesters.
 - c. Registrar's Advisory Committee meeting recently discussed this issue and realized that MST-CHD program was in violation of policy. A letter of exception for the MST-CHD program will be written – the program will continue with the 15 cr. hr. semesters.
 - d. Policy in catalog is vague regarding what exactly is the maximum credit load. Suggestion to rewrite the policy.
 - e. The decision stands, but the status quo of existing programs remains the same.
3. Status report from Rena Janke (Coordinator of Adolescence Education: Science) regarding the status of a proposal for a new 'group' online MAT across all adolescence education programs
 - a. Proposed program is in response to SUNY Transformation Fund announced in June 2023. <https://system.suny.edu/student-success/transformation-fund/>
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-advances-75-million-suny-transformation-fund-improve-student-success-support>
 - b. Dean Mattingly held meeting of MAT program coordinators in October 2023 to announce/request development of combined, online MAT program. Follow-up meeting held in November.
 - c. At SUNY Cortland, MAT programs are experiencing low enrollments.
 - d. R. Janke's concerns & questions regarding the proposed combined MAT program:
 - i. Applicants – in-state only or are applicants from any state allowed?
 - ii. Who would teach the courses that serve all the MAT programs?
 - iii. Will enrollment be capped?
 - iv. Would course be synchronous, asynchronous, or bi-synchronous?

- v. Would students be part of a cohort?
 - vi. Will the program serve both part-time and fulltime students?
 - vii. How will quality be ensured/maintained so that Cortland's reputation/brand is not diminished?
 - viii. Student dispositions – how will online students be vetted prior to field experiences – especially if out-of-state students are part of the program?
 - ix. Methods courses would be discipline specific, but other courses would be shared
- e. C. Van Der Karr provided more background – proposal request and deadlines were not ideal – proposal was written in 3 days – money has been approved. Funding is only for 2-year period.
- f. Other concerns and questions:
- i. L. Gathagan – concern about funding for only two years.
 - ii. C. Van Der Karr – hope this will help sustain all adolescent education program.
 - iii. T. Bradway – what makes Cortland's teacher education special and unique is that “our education programs are housed within the departments and disciplines.” Is eliminating this wise? What evidence is there that changing these programs to one online program is better?
 - iv. C. Van Der Karr – our in-person education programs are not sustainable. The regional population is not large enough to sustain in-person programs. On-line enrollment is how every comprehensive SUNY is going.
 - v. L. Gathagan – enrollment increase is “lovely” but not from the faculty perspective if there are no new hands to help. Reinforced importance of discipline specific MAT's.
 - vi. K. Newvine – you can teach content online. Education across the country is changing to online – this is how students want to learn. It is a massive amount of work for faculty, however. It is a 24-hr/day job. Literacy Dept. added 3 new faculty and it is still a massive amount of work. Move to online should be done thoughtfully.
 - vii. L. Gathagan – the hallmark of Cortland has been our discipline specific MAT programs. Online programs involve a massive amount of work.
 - viii. L. Reichel – many online students wish it was in-person. Higher level thinking/critical thinking is difficult to do online. What about emotional learning – how can that be done well online.
 - ix. T. Bradway – What enrollment is satisfactory? What is an ideal number of graduate students for a program if it is to remain
 - x. E. Gravani – PE graduate program is overworked due to high enrollment – but it is primarily an in-person program.
 - xi. C. VanDerKarr – the College at St. Rose, well-known as a teacher education school, is closing due to low enrollment.
 - xii. K. Newvine – would not want other faculty to experience the work-load that Literacy Dept. faculty are experiencing.
 - xiii. L. Gathagan – Our brand is valuable, rigor should come first, and faculty should be concerned about enrollment in their classes.

Meeting ended: 10:10 am

Submitted by: P. McGinnis