**Graduate Studies Council**

**minutes of the meeting of September 22, 2015**

**12:30 pm, Hamblin Hall 005**

in attendance: Dr. Bejou, Dr. Carney, Dr. Woodard, Dr. Zaman, Dr. Pennington, Mr. Echols, Dr. Ford, Mr. Gilliland, Dr. Kane, Dr. Stroupe, Dr. Vaughan, Mr. Gilliland and visitors: Dr. Wamsley, Dr. Blackwell, Ms. Patricia Wilson, Dr. Brenda Wilson.

The meeting came to order at 12:35.

Dr. Wilson took minutes, since the issue of who will take minutes is still unresolved.

**Master of Social Work**

Dr. Wamsley presented the program proposal for the Master of Social Work degree, which will be implemented as soon as Fall 2016 if all approvals are obtained. The program is in partnership with WVU, which has an established MSW program in the Kanawha Valley with about 80 students. They serve the Kanawha Valley and Southern West Virginia. The advantage of having a combined program is that their program already meets the accreditation requirement of having 6 full time faculty members entirely dedicated to the MSW program. It is cost prohibitive for us to start a MSW program, since it would mean that we would need to hire 6 full time faculty members. They just received reaffirmation of accreditation, so the cost (money and resource cost) of accreditation is not an issue. The current program is a part time program that can be completed in 2-3 years, by adding courses at WVSU through WVSU faculty, the program will be able to become full time and social workers can complete the program in a shorter time period. WVU will continue to offer evening courses at their Kanawha City campus, and WVSU will begin offering course at the WVSU campus during daytime hours once the joint program is fully approved. Some courses are online. The degree will say, “conferred by WVU in collaboration with WVSU.” The MOU states that WVU will get to count the degrees toward their program, and WVSU can count the courses offered at WVSU toward their Master program enrollment numbers. WVU will reimburse Dr. Wamsley for her time administering the program.

*After discussion, Dr. Kane moved and Mr. Echols seconded that the GSC endorse the program as presented. The motion carried with all in favor.*

**Master of Education in Instructional Leadership**

Dr. Blackwell presented the program proposal for the Master of Education in Instructional Leadership. The proposal was emailed to the committee yesterday. In summary, the program is planned to be a fully online program with an emphasis on “social justice, fairness and equity.” It is planned for an August 2016 roll out. The emphasis on social justice, fairness and equity and having a program coordinator who is actively recruiting and mentoring participants are two things that set this program apart from other Masters programs in Ed Leadership in WV.

During discussion, the Council suggested the possibility that Marshall University might be opposed to this program. Advice was given with respect to possible opposing arguments and how to refute them. Further, the suggestion that the Education Department should solicit state- and national-level educational leadership groups to endorse the program was put forward. One committee member said that it strengthened the program if the Program Coordinator were a 12 month employee with a 25% increase in salary for the additional work involved. One committee member said that Lamar University’s M. Ed. Is highly successful in recruiting and retaining students, and suggested that the program coordinator look into the methods they use. One committee member praised the proposal for completeness, i.e. it meets all the criteria required by the HEPC for submitting a proposal. One committee member commented on the need to complete Quality Matters reviews on all courses as soon as possible.

*After discussion, Professor Gilliland moved and Dr. Ziyati seconded for approval of the proposal as presented. The motion carried with all in favor.*

**Minutes of September 1 Meeting**

Mr. Boyd moved and Dr. Stroupe seconded that the minutes of the September 1, 2015 meeting be approved as presented. The motion carried with all in favor.

**Current Graduate Students**

There was a discussion of how to keep the list of current graduate students up to date. It was agreed that by keeping in touch with all the program coordinators, it was possible to keep an up to date list of current students.

**Next meeting and Adjournment**

The next meeting will be October 20 at 12:30 p.m. in Hamblin 005.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

***minutes by Brenda Wilson***