09-15-26 Meeting: Graduate Council

Location: Tillman 211

Participants: Charles Randle Sherry Hoyle, Melissa McCartney, Brantley Therrell, Tracy Patterson, Jenniferr Knight Dixon, Cody Walters, Kelly Richardson, Alice McNeil, Michelle Sullivan

Meeting Notes

1. Approval of April 14 Meeting Minutes and Leadership Updates
   - Minutes from April 14 were reviewed and approved (motion, second, approved).
   - Malika, a voting member, was absent.
2. A vice chair is needed; Sherry Hoyle agreed to serve for a one-year term in the absence of other interest.
   The chair agreed to stay on Graduate Council for an additional (final) term.
3. Graduate Enrollment Status and Policy Changes (Graduate School Dean's Report)
   - Full-time status for financial aid adjusted from 9 to 6 credits; implemented last year to mitigate Grad PLUS effects. Part-time headcount dropped from 653 to 207 as many reclassified to full-time; aligns with loan eligibility. Total graduate enrollment is 1,003 (up from 999; 0.5% growth). Credit hour production decreased by 3.4%. Not-registered issues concentrated in online Social Work (Risepoint-managed); causes include missed registration and lack of course availability; flagged as an advising issue. Biology master's enrollment ended; Nutrition program saw 100% growth. Program changes year-over-year (online): MBA: +9 students; Sport Fitness: +6; Counseling: +3; Human Nutrition: +6.
   - Recruitment: fairs underway; materials printed; capacity to attend more events on request.
   - Changes to full-time status- Financial-aid full-time is set at 6 credits; programs may retain 9-credit internal standards. GA eligibility updated: 6 credits qualifies for full-time GA. International students may require 9 credits; need extra advising to avoid confusion. State reporting (IPEDS) may require different definitions; will comply with IPEDS constraints.
4. Vendor Performance and Potential Transition from RisePoin
   Multiple operational issues with RisePoint (student services problems, registration gaps, role confusion). Leadership is evaluating an exit from RisePoint; planning internal capacity build and possible external marketing support.
5. Secretary Hiring for the Council

- Aim to schedule in-person/Zoom next week; target to fill by October.

6. Eagle Book Program Confusion for Mixed-Level (500/600) Course
   - Issue acknowledged; to be clarified operationally.
7. Curriculum Actions—Arts Administration and Related Courses
   - Certificate in Arts Administration: reduce from 18 to 15 credits; adopt flexible "mix-and-match" structure; strengthens standalone value. MA in Arts Administration: remove law course; add education content focused on nonprofit contexts; repurpose law content across other courses; total hours unchanged.
   - Vote: Certificate reduction and MA modification approved (block vote).
8. New courses (review only):
   - ARTC 675 (education management; replaces law in the curriculum).
   - Additional three courses tied to ABCI partnership with SC Arts Commission to train K-12 fine arts coordinators; grant expected to fund first-year course creation and first cohort; potential integration into M.Ed. in Educational Studies as a track.
9. Accounting Curriculum Cleanup (CPA Exam Prep)
   - Accounting 600 (Becker access/intro) to be set as a co-requisite (not prerequisite) to Accounting 620, enabling simultaneous enrollment.
   - Accounting 620 can be taken up to three times for different CPA exam sections during program length.
10. Scheduling Conflict with Provost's Lunch & Learn and Submission Timelines
    - March 12 date corrected (not a Tuesday; a Friday); potential overlap with Provost events discussed.
    - 500-level course reviews must precede CUC submission deadlines (by the 12th); meeting scheduling to consider conflicts and attendance requirements.
11. Grade Repeat Policy and Registrar System Behavior
    - Case where a repeated course grade did not automatically replace the prior grade for GPA; required a petition to enable graduation.
    - Policy indicates replacement should occur automatically; suspected system glitch.
12. Graduate Petitions Process—Concerns and Improvements
    - Summer saw an unusually high volume; some petitions improperly sought financial relief, which is outside committee scope.
    - Member availability over summer limited; desire to batch petitions with set deadlines.

- University-wide petitions have monthly submission deadlines; suggestion to adopt a similar cadence for grad petitions. Proposal: monthly batches during the academic year; 1–2 deadlines over summer to support year-round grad students.

13. Meeting Logistics and Announcements
    - Future Graduate Council meetings will move from Tillman 308 (space reassigned to Controller's Office)
    - Hunter's recruitment fairs schedule link to be shared; includes unit-level engagement metrics.