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***Faculty Senate Report***

**Graduate Council**

**October 2, 2019**

*Respectfully submitted by Dr. Irene Pittman Aiken, Dean*

Graduate Council met on September 16, 2019. Below are items believed to be most relevant to Faculty Senate.

* Visitor presentations:
  + Brandy Brown: Discussed the Writing Center and what it can do to help the graduate students; mentioned that approx. 8% of current WC users are graduate students.
  + Provost Ward: Thanked the group for their work in growing The Graduate School in size while maintaining high standards and discussed Academic Affairs’ plans for bringing professional doctoral programs to UNCP.
  + Jodi Phelps: Presented data about marketing efforts, 2019-20 budget for marketing graduate programs, and additional areas of focus for her team in the current academic year. Stated that metrics for Graduate School are far above the standards for almost all programs.
  + Dean Aiken discussed her plan to focus on graduate students’ mental health this year and introduced Charla Suggs who spoke about CAPS resources and workshops
* Graduate Faculty Nominations – the following graduate statuses were approved:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Last Name** | **First Name** | **Degree** | **Dept** | **Program** | **Status** |
| Brown | Betty | PhD | Education | Reading Ed | Adjunct |
| Brown | Brandy Lyn | PhD | English | English | Full |
| Hudson | James | PhD | History | Social Science Ed | Full |
| Jones-Locklear | Jennifer | PhD | Nursing | Nursing | Adjunct |
| Stone | Misty | PhD | Nursing | Nursing | Adjunct |
| Sweet | Joseph | PhD | ETFL | English | Full |
| Van Buren | Amy | EdD | Education | Elementary Ed | Adjunct |
| Wei | Guo | PhD | Math/CS | Math Ed | Full |

* **New Program Proposal – Play Therapy Graduate Certificate – approved**
  + The Play Therapy Graduate Certificate is a 12-credit hour program designed to prepare students to work with children who are 12 years and younger in a developmentally appropriate way in both school counseling and community settings. The program includes an emphasis on play therapy techniques for various mental health issues including supporting children who have experienced trauma.
  + **Prospective Curriculum (all new courses were approved):**
    - CNS XXXX: Introduction to Play Therapy (3)
    - CNS XXXX: Play Therapy Theories and Techniques (3)
    - CNS XXXX: Play Therapy for Specific Challenges (3)
    - CNS XXXX: Filial and Family Play Therapy (3)
* **Graduate School Items/Report**
  + Dr. Aiken reviewed the Fall 2019 New Graduate Student Orientation, which saw over 130 participants.
    - Spring 2020 orientation will take place January 9, at 4:00 pm in UC Annex
    - Dr. Aiken and Dr. Bumin have been working on the online orientation modules to be posted soon. *Previously,* o*nline students have had access to a video of Orientation.*
  + Additional Student Funding: Dr. Aiken informed the group that Graduate Travel Awards will be doubled and for the first time, students who are not presenting/showcasing work are eligible for travel funding. The Graduate School received $50,000 additional GA funding. Academic Affairs funded GAs are now paid $9000 a year and additional GA positions have been awarded across campus to support research efforts.
  + Dr. Bumin and Dr. Aiken briefly described the demographic profile of the graduate students enrolled for fall 2019, and provided comparisons with prior years (2016, 2017, and 2018). Data included:
    - 1345 total graduate enrollment (17% of student body)
    - 25% increase over fall 2018, 74% increase in the last two years.
    - 11% growth in non-MBA programs compared to 2018-2019
    - Fastest growing graduate school among our peers in the UNC system *(NCCU had not reported)*
* Announcements/Reminders
  + Remaining Grad Council Meetings for 19-20 academic year (UC Annex 203 at 3:00 pm):
  + October 21, November 18 of 2019, and January 27, February 17, March 16, and April 20 of 2020
  + Graduation Application Deadlines: October 1 for spring 20 graduation, March 1 for Fall 2020 graduation
  + Graduate School Spring Commencement, Dec 6, 2019