



**METROPOLITAN
STATE UNIVERSITYSM
OF DENVER**

Graduate Council

Metropolitan State University of Denver

Jan. 16, 2020

11:00-12:30 PM

SSB 330 C

Meeting Notes

Shannon Campbell, Ann Diker, Connie Sanders, Letitia Pleis, Garrett Chism, Ingrid Carter, Kim Starr, Kwang Cho, Amy Middleton, AJ Alejano-Steele, Miriam Pereira

Welcome

- a. Approval of Minutes - Motioned by Letitia second by Connie
 - b. Minutes Approved
- Financial Aid Distribution of \$42,000 in scholarship funds to graduate students from State Allocation-Thad Spaulding
 1. Thad gave an explanation of the “need based” Colorado Graduate Grant. State dollars are allocated in line with other need based dollars. This allocation methodology is from CDHE policy. Students financial need information is taken from the completed FAFSA.
 2. The process for allocating these funds indicated a “critical need graduate program.” There will be more research into this definition. The programs are designated by CIP code. (Classification of Instructional Programs)
 3. \$42,000 was allocated for the Graduate Grant for this year -up from \$2,900 in prior year. An Awarding policy has been established. “Recipient blind” has been adopted as a factor in the allocation process. Stacking of funds is prohibited. In general- MSU Denver has flexibility with institutional but not state funds. For scholarships- Thad indicates to please work with Thomas Hernandez.
 4. A question for Thad from the Council- Who determined the critical need and other criteria used to allocate? Thad will obtain the rules used in the award process and get them out to the Council. Including the CIP codes.
 5. Amy Middleton indicated a need for cost of attendance letters to be correct. Helps to plan for making decisions and awards. Previously letters have been based on undergraduate costs.
 6. Thad is committed to timely communications for all students including graduate students. As a reminder- Graduate Students are only eligible for loans and federal work-study.
 7. When Financial Aid provides the criteria used in making the awards, Shannon will review the CIP codes that were used and notify the Council.
 - Requirement of undergraduate degree for graduate enrollment discussion- Shannon asked for thoughts on this topic. From the Council:
 1. What are some of the ramifications with a student skipping an undergraduate degree?

2. Would it impact the reputation of MSU Denver to allow students to enroll in grad without undergrad?
3. The Education Program indicated that there is a philosophical question involved. How do you put value on an UG degree versus experience? But could be seen as a positive as being more accessible. It could be seen as very progressive and outside the traditional.
4. Would be difficult to go back once we start it?
5. Shaun likes the idea and believes that MSU Denver could set a standard and stick to it. Miriam indicated that we shouldn't send mix messages.
6. Shannon indicated that working professionals in Cyber might be unwilling to get an undergrad.
7. Garrett indicated that he would have to look into it and determine if there were some opportunities.
8. All MSU Denver graduate certificates require an undergraduate degree.
9. Shaun indicated we should look at the language of the other institutions doing this currently.
10. Group feels that there is enough interest to continue exploring this topic. Be open minded and data informed and emphasis specific.

- Graduate Catalog

1. Template for handbooks- this will also eventually be on SharePoint.
2. The handbook will be designed to supplement the catalog; the catalog sets the university "floor" for policy relative to grad programs. The catalog is the floor and then the handbooks can include all other needed items.
3. Imperative that we have a catalog in place by April because no meeting in May. We have a series of handbooks that have been put into a catalog.
4. Program level information will be in the Handbook. University level items are a clearinghouse for accreditors like HLC. Need structures in place for HLC visit 2021
5. Petitions help to provide structure and new catalog will indicate new ways to move forward and not the same undergraduate practices in place. Looking to provide guardrails. The need is strong to complete the catalog work by April. Then have deep and meaningful discussions. This is not the catalog for yesterday or today, but should represent our future. Catalog represent embracing the future. Urban and workforce implications. Amy suggested that we look at a Graduate retreat.

- Council discussion re: 3MT (01-28-2020), National Graduate & Professional Student Appreciation Week (April 6-10,2020), Pinning and Hood Ceremony Coordination (message from Provost) Please try to coordinate Pinning and Hooding Ceremony dates if possible. 3MT is January 28th at Auraria Library.