MINUTES
GRADUATE BOARD
December 11, 2017

PRESENT: M. Deibis, M. Finney, T. Hemphill, D. Lair, B. Maki, K. Schilling, S. Turner (Interim Associate Provost), J. Witt

ABSENT: C. Creech, S. Selig

1. The minutes from the November 27, 2017 were approved without any changes.

2. Discussion of Review of MA Arts Administration Progress Report
   ▪ The Board will complete the discussion regarding the progress report once the Provost has been consulted.

3. Preparations for 2018 Graduate Student Survey
   ▪ The Board reviewed the draft version of the 2018 Graduate Student Survey. The survey is sent electronically to all active graduate students and is administered every two years.
   ▪ The Board responded with two suggestions: remove football tickets question and add colleges in upper peninsula to list.

4. Review MA Applied Communications (ACOM) Preliminary Program Review Report
   ▪ The Board was provided a brief overview of the ACOM Preliminary Program Review.
   ▪ The launch of the ACOM program has been successful.
     o Thirteen students from the first cohort graduated in August 17 with one more set to graduate this month- making it one of the top national peer MA programs in applied communications.
     o Program revenues have covered the program budget sufficiently. Revenues and start-up funds provided for the hiring of a new assistant professor in Fall 2016.
     o Faculty are enthusiastic about the program and the students.
   ▪ The program has room to grow.
     o While the program has capacity for a cohort of 20 students, student enrollment hasn’t hit the maximum yet.
     o The number of applications have increased, and the program is working closely with Graduate Programs to increase marketing efforts and to develop more in-depth recruiting materials for new students.
   ▪ Three curricular changes were implemented during the first two years.
   ▪ The Board learned more about the backgrounds of current and former students, along with the challenge that the program faces recruiting students from a variety of backgrounds.
Two ideas discussed in the meeting were: consider exploring options of partnering with other programs or degrees to create tracks for students (e.g. scientific communications for example); secondly, consider the idea of offering the program with a part-time option.

5. Matters Arising

- There were no matters arising.

Next meeting: 1/08/18 @ 2:00pm in the Graduate Programs Conference Room