Graduate Studies Committee Meeting, Monday, 11 May 2020

GSC held an asynchronous meeting Monday, 11 May 2020 that covered six topics:

1. What we should call our combined Bachelor’s/Master’s degree program framework. The committee decided upon “Accelerated Master’s Degree Program.” This title distinguishes our CSI framework from the CUNY-wide 4+1 program. It is also more accurate: in some programs it is difficult to complete the master’s degree in only one additional year.

2. The Compassionate Grading Policy for this semester. All committee members understand the policy.

3. Veronica Di Meglio announced the implementation of the “Navigate” platform for graduate programs.

4. Assessment. The committee discussed how to assess online courses.

5. The committee discussed problems and successes with the move to remote teaching and learning this semester.

The most significant issues are with “practice” disciplines that require resources for demonstration and observation, particularly in nursing and teacher certification.

In the School of Education, the most significant challenges are with the needs of teacher candidates who are preparing for state certification. Since they can no longer be on site with their students, they have been planning and delivering virtual lessons that they share with their college supervisors and cooperating teachers. The courses that require field observations use videos of actual lessons that they can analyze and discuss virtually with their peers.

6. In order to celebrate our successes this semester, I asked the committee members to share their good news about their programs. Here are their answers:

School of Health Sciences: Our DPT, SWK and NRS graduate student graduates all head into the field every year in front-line positions. Many of our graduate Nursing students (actually, all of them!) are already RNs before they even enter the graduate program and are making great sacrifices at the moment while continuing their studies. It is truly humbling to read about their accomplishments, and that of our faculty, many of whom (esp. adjunct Nursing faculty) are also on the front lines at great peril to care for others.

Here are a just a few of their stories (includes undergraduate alumni):

<https://csitoday.com/2020/05/csi-nursing-alumni-serving-on-the-front-lines-during-pandemic/>

I would also like to acknowledge the truly exceptional job our SHS graduate faculty have performed in converting graduate courses that are intensively hands-on to a format that permits most of our students to continue in program without delay, with innovative virtual clinical instruction, while maintaining accreditation standards and program standards.

Our students are not only working in the front line, they are leading. Almost all of them are working in the critical care units in the five boroughs. They all have children at home, and many are also caring for their parents.  Often they cannot go home, so have worked around the clock. Yet, most have kept up with their classes this semester and will progress to next semester.

Liberal Studies

A recent graduate of our program was accepted into and began the PhD program in English at Rutgers.

History

One of our public history graduates, Carlos Santiago, was hired by the New York Genealogical Society and will be working with them to expand their outreach to the Hispanic community.  We're very proud of him.  Our interns have been finishing up their internships with the Conference House and Historic Richmond Town.

School of Business:

The first batch of MS in Healthcare will graduate this Summer. This is a huge accomplishment for Chazanoff School of Business. Moreover, this is even more important for the students, especially when they have to endure so many challenges, such as adapt to online learning while working in the healthcare sector during these difficult times.

School of Education:

Three of the Graduates of the Educational Leadership Program are currently acting as Directors of Regional Educational Centers where children of first responders and other essential employees go every day. Not only are they putting themselves at risk, they are caring for the well-being of children ages 4-14, sibling groups, making sure they keep up with their regular assigned schoolwork and making sure they are emotionally supported during such a frightening time. They have managed to put in art, phys ed and dance programs where the children are required to practice social distancing, wear masks, etc. We are very proud to be in any way associated with these people.

English: This year two of our graduates have been accepted to top doctoral programs in English for the first time in our history.  One will attend the University of Texas at Austin and the other will begin studies at the CUNY Graduate Center this fall. Eleven of our students have completed excellent theses that cover a range of literary fields, including Shakespeare, Chinese Science Fiction, and the works of James Baldwin. One graduate plans to become a fireman and would like to adjunct teach in our writing program. The rest will continue teaching in the public schools on Staten Island and in Brooklyn.