**Minutes**

Graduate Programs Council

February 20, 2013 1:30 – 3:00 PM

Present: Lisa DeMarsico, Kelly Fisher, Matthew Hall, Cassandra Jackson, Brenda Leake, Claire Lindberg, Melissa Pieller, Shri Rao, Stuart Roe

**Absent:** Nita Ball, Nicole Magno, Todd McCrary, Jessica Solano

Minutes from December 5, 2012 and February 6, 2013 were reviewed and accepted with minor changes.

The committee worked together on putting together a list of academic institutions that would be considered “comparator institutions” to TCNJ graduate programs. The committee discussed criteria to be used in determining comparative institutions. It was suggested that comparable programs would be ones that prospective students would apply to in addition to TCNJ. Ie acknowledged that our students and prospective students are most likely to live within commuting distance of the college and that limits comparisons to regional institutions. Shri Rao suggested that comparator schools would be those that we aspire to be like. The committee discussed this and it was felt that discovering such academic institutions this would require a large amount of research. The committee discussed a need to highlight what is unique and stellar about TCNJ graduate programs rather than to focus on who we are not or who we are similar to.

The purpose of the original comparator schools list given to us by S. Hydro from Graduate Studies was questioned. It was determined that we need to revisit this with S. Hydro.

For next meeting committee members are asked to create a list of what is special about the program they know best.

Respectfully,

Claire Lindberg