Graduate Council Minutes

Friday, January 19, 2018


Excused: Megan Conkle, Travis Gatling, Alexandra Hibbitt, Chulho Jung, Brian McCarthy, Chris Moberg, Erik Ramsey, Andy Ray, and Gaurav Sinha

Convened: The meeting was convened at 3:05 pm.

1. Approval of the minutes of the December 8, 2017 meeting
   Minutes approved.

2. Chair’s Report: Steve Bergmeier
   Steve announced the March Graduate Council meeting is scheduled for the Friday of Spring Break. The Council agreed to move the meeting to Friday, March 9, 2018. The Council asked Becky to schedule a room in Baker University Center for this meeting.

3. Remarks by Dean of the Graduate College: Joe Shields
   a) Joe congratulated Chemistry for the Council of Graduate Schools approval of the M.S. Chemistry – online. This program met with some hesitation initially, but upon further discussion, and as others consider this delivery model, the program was approved.
   b) Joe announced the approval of the Graduate Student Parental Leave Policy and stated the communication about this policy was scheduled to go out later that day.
   c) Joe updated the council on the Graduate College offer letter project. The Graduate College has created template offer letters for graduate chairs to use. These templates will be made available on a webpage. In addition, the Graduate College has prepared a webpage for admitted graduate students that offers definitions and more resources to better understand the offer letter. Becky Bushey-Miller has led this project and is willing to meet with graduate chairs and others to familiarize them with these important resources.

4. Remarks by Assistant Dean of the Graduate College: Katie Tadlock
a. Katie reviewed the application data and announced graduate student enrollment as of Wednesday, January 17, 2018.
   - Applications are down 10% since Sept 1st. This number has held steady for some time.
   - Domestic is down 8%.
   - International is down 16%.
   - Charlotte Elster requested application data overtime in a table.

b. Katie announced the Named Fellowship Information. The nomination deadline is Friday, February 2, 2018 and there is more information available on the Graduate College website.

c. Katie announced the upcoming 3 Minute Thesis Competition dates.
   i. The deadline to register is January 26.
   ii. The deadline for slide submission is February 9.
   iii. The semi-finals rounds are scheduled for Tuesday, February 13 and Thursday, February 15 from 7 P.M. in 103 Stocker Center.
   iv. The final round is scheduled for Wednesday, February 21 from 7 P.M. in 103 Stocker Center.

5. Curriculum Bridge Committee:
   a. Program Committee – Jen Horner drew the council’s attention to the three Communication Studies programs that will need comments during the next Graduate Council meeting and asked the members to review the documents. The programs are:
      i. Rhetoric & Culture (PH5360)
      ii. Health Communication (PH5361)
      iii. Interpersonal and Organizational Communication (PH5362)

b. Program Review Committee – Nothing to report

6. Graduate Student Affairs and Fellowships Committee
   Pete Harrington chairs this committee and Becky Bushey-Miller will work with Pete to get MAGs and Named Fellowship materials to the committee members.

7. Planning and Strategy Committee
   Nothing to report
8. Policies and Regulations Committee
   Nothing to report
9. Recruitment and Admission Requirements Committee
   Nothing to report
10. Old Business
    a. ETD proposal from Creative Writing
       Janet Hulm Hard updated the council on the proposal. She stated that it is hard to
       say that the trend is up. The committee needs to discuss whether there should be
       an automatic embargo. The discussion of this proposal really centers on
       intellectual property and publication delay. The committee hopes to find an
       overall fit and keep administrative tasks to a minimum.
    b. White paper – Importance of Graduate Education – Nothing to report
11. New Business
    a. Re-evaluate admission standards for some applicants with 3-year degrees who
       apply for admission to Ohio University
       i. L. J. Edmonds brought up a concern to the council about applicants with
          3-year degree programs and their admission to graduate school. She stated
          Ohio University does accept some, and wondered if Ohio University
          should accept others. L.J.’s question is: As an access institution, should we
          re-evaluate our standards when a highly rigorous review process by an
          outside reviewer recommends admission?
       ii. Katie spoke of the current O University standard for admission. An
           applicant must have completed a four-year degree or its equivalent.
           Sixteen years of education is the current best practice and aligned with the
           bulk of international credential experts.
       iii. Council members had many questions.
       iv. L.J. volunteered to gather information from other institutions about how
           they handle this dynamic and bring it back to the council for the
           Recruitment and Admissions Requirements Committee to review.
b. David announced that discussions are occurring at the state level related to whether faculty have the appropriate terminal degree qualifying them to teach the courses in their discipline. He suggested he Bridge Committee examine this issue.

c. David also announced that the forms for a “Program Change” are being rewritten at the state level. More news to come on this.

d. Seth Baker expressed an interest in childcare for graduate students and is interested in bringing this up to the Ohio University Leadership via Graduate Student Senate.

e. Maria Modayil announced that the student meal plan option is now available to those with a Graduate Appointment.

f. Maria Modayil also announced that Leadership Award applications are now open and encouraged members to recommend graduate students for these awards.

g. Maria Modayil reminded the council of the upcoming Women in Graduate School Day Conference on February 10.

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 4:27 pm.