

Graduate Council Minutes

February 12, 2021

Attendance: Deb Benton, Gordon Brooks, Geoff Dabelko, Charlotte Elster, Kaelyn Ferris, Andrew Fodor, Ann Frymier, Pete Harrington, Sara Helfrich, Arthur Hughes, Lesli Johnson, Paul Jones, David Koonce, Joseph Lee, Sally Marinellie, Brian McCarthy, Greg Newton, Patrick O'Connor, Luke Pittaway, Beth Quitslund, Erik Ramsey, Andy Ray, Carol Schaumleffel, Katie Tadlock, Kelley Walton, Charlotte Yang, and Lijing Yang

Excused: Andrea Frohne, Janet Hulm, Shawn Ostermann, Assan Sarr, Joe Shields, Amid Vahedi, and Morgan Vis-Chiasson

Convened: The meeting began at 3:03 pm.

1. Approval of the minutes from the December 11, 2020 and January 22, 2021 meetings
Council action for December minutes – Minutes approved.
Council action for January minutes – Minutes approved.
2. Chair's Report: Gordon Brooks
Gordon announced that he will talk to Faculty Senate about how reduction in graduate programs will be handled.
3. Graduate Student Senate Report: Kaelyn Ferris
 - GSS passed a resolution advocating for the support and evolution of the Academic and Global Communication program (formerly known as ELIP program) and the resources they offer.
 - GSS as a part of the academic process group are having evolving conversation about grading during the pandemic.
 - Kaelyn announced that student health insurance is changing the process in how coverage is paid. They are moving from payment in two terms (fall and spring) to three terms (fall, spring, and summer). The impetus of this change comes from those students who graduate in spring and have coverage through June.
Graduate Council members express the following concerns:
 - Members are concerned that students will need to request coverage for summer if they are not enrolled for summer courses.
 - Members are concerned about the new payment schedule in the plan. Currently students pay for insurance in fall and spring. To continue this payment plan, students will need to opt out of the three payments rather than opting in for summer.

- Members expressed concern that students will think there is a reduction in the cost of the plan, and they will be surprised when there is a third installment due in the summer.
4. Remarks by Associate Dean of the Graduate College: David Koonce
 - David updated the council on graduate student enrollment as of the census date. Ohio University graduate student enrollment is higher by more than 200 as compared to last spring.
 - David announced that applications are up as much as 3 – 7% over the last three years.
 - 3MT Competition will be held in March. Semi-final rounds are scheduled for March 16, 2021 and March 18, 2021. The finals will be held on March 24, 2021.
 - David updated the council on a directive from the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE). In short, the chancellor requested that public universities adopt policies to provide in-state tuition rates to graduate students who received their bachelor’s degrees in Ohio. In response, for those with bachelor’s degrees earned within the state of Ohio, Ohio University will charge newly admitted graduate students \$1 per credit hour through the 2021-22 academic year. More information is available on the following ODHE web page (https://www.ohiohighered.org/content/directive_2021_001).
 - The Graduate College continues working with the Office of Information Technology (OIT) on the forms project.
 5. Remarks by Assistant Dean of the Graduate College: Katie Tadlock
Nothing to report.
 6. Remarks by Graduate College Faculty Fellow: Beth Quitslund
Beth announced that she is sending around a list of students who could be considered for the HEC Pakistani program. This program is to support doctoral students. If you have questions, contact Beth.
 7. Bridge/Curriculum Committees: Sara Helfrich
Sara shared the following for Graduate Council review:

College of Business
 - MS8149 Master of Business Administration & Masters of Sports Administration
 - Reduction of credit hours from 42 to 36
 - MB6123 General Business Grad (Master of Business Administration One Year)

- Reduction of credit hours from 42 to 36

Council action or concerns – Council supports these changes and has no concerns.

8. Program Review Committee: Lijing Yang

Nothing to report.

9. Graduate Student Affairs and Fellowships Committee: Pete Harrington

- Pete reminded the council members of the Presidential Graduate Student Medals deadline of February 19, 2021. The Graduate Student Affairs and Fellowships Committee will review these applications/nominations following the deadline.
- In addition, Pete announced the Named Fellows deadline of Friday, March 5, 2021.

10. Policies and Regulations Committee: Greg Newton

- Greg presented a topic for discussion about the use of PR grades for thesis and dissertation sections.
- Graduate Council members comments included the following:
 - Per Deb Benton, the Office of the Registrar will work with University Curriculum Council (UCC) on a solution for a mass change.
 - The grade NC is currently not used with dissertation hours. Council asked if there is a way that NC could be considered for use with these hours.
 - Council members suggested that perhaps a limited number of NCs are allowable and then perhaps some intervention process should be established if a student earns too many of the allowable number of NCs.
- The Policies and Regulations Committee will work on a proposal with these comments in mind and bring the proposal back to the council for consideration.

11. Recruitment and Admission Requirements Committee: Luke Pittaway

- Donald (Don) Pendergast – Committee recommending COI approval.
Action – Council approves as the committee recommended.
- Andrew Badii – Committee notified the council of a change in status.
No action needed.

12. Old Business

Nothing to report.

13. New Business

How do we handle requests from graduate students who are ill with COVID-19 and want to reduce hours?

Could the GC offer advice to grad chairs about reduction of coursework? They can withdraw from the course before the final deadline with a “W” on their transcript. An “W” is a formal withdrawal from the course, so technically they can register for that course again.

The meeting adjourned at 4:02 pm.