

Graduate Council Minutes

March 5, 2021

Attendance: Deb Benton, Gordon Brooks, Geoff Dabelko, Kaelyn Ferris, Andrew Fodor, Andrea Frohne, Ann Frymier, Pete Harrington, Sara Helfrich, Arthur Hughes, Janet Hulm, Lesli Johnson, Paul Jones, David Koonce, Brian McCarthy, Greg Newton, Patrick O'Connor, Shawn Ostermann, Beth Quitslund, Erik Ramsey, Andy Ray, Carol Schaumleffel, Joe Shields, Katie Tadlock, Amid Vahedi, Morgan Vis-Chiasson, Kelley Walton, Charlotte Yang, and Lijing Yang

Excused: Charlotte Elster, Joseph Lee, Sally Marinellie, Luke Pittaway, and Assan Sarr

Convened: The meeting was convened at 3:02 pm.

1. Approval of the minutes from the February 12, 2021 meeting.
Action – Minutes approved
2. Chair's Report: Gordon Brooks
 - Gordon clarified that there is no plan to short circuit the established process and eliminate any programs during the current discussion about academic planning for the future.
 - Joe Shields stated that the university is committed to transparency during this process.
3. Graduate Student Senate (GSS) Report: Kaelyn Ferris
 - Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week (GPSAW) planning is underway. This is scheduled for the first week of April.
 - Graduate Student Senate is co-hosting a conference as a part of GPSAW. Look for more information about both soon.
 - The student health insurance campaign is going well. GSS is working on infographics to help with the understandability of the content. GSS is partnering with University Communication and Marketing (UCM) on the development of these materials.
 - The student trustee selection process is underway and moving ahead.
4. Remarks by Dean of the Graduate College: Joe Shields
 - The Student Expo is scheduled for Thursday, April 8, 2021. The registration deadline is Monday, March 15, 2021.
 - The university is working to come up with a better strategy for graduate student recruitment and there are some questions centering around who is doing what for

enrollment management. These include identifying what the colleges' responsibilities will be and what is centrally offered.

5. Remarks by Associate Dean of the Graduate College: David Koonce

- Application numbers are 3-7 % above the numbers from the past five (5) years. The applications for admission to a certificate only program is at 89 applications.
- The Graduate College is moving forward on the forms project. The Graduate College is working with Office of Information Technology (OIT) in the standardization of forms.
- As a reminder, please remember that OHIO University has signed the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) April 15th resolution which states that graduate programs cannot require a student to accept before April 15th.
- Also, as a reminder, the Graduate College has offer letter templates available on the [Graduate College website](#) to assist those who write these offers. These are available in Microsoft Word or as a PDF.

6. Remarks by Assistant Dean of the Graduate College: Katie Tadlock

- Katie updated the council on the recent announcement about commencement. To reduce transmission risk during the pandemic, Spring Commencement has been moved to Peden Stadium. As we currently know, the plan is for first come, first serve for seating. No hooding of doctoral students will occur. Check in will be at the Walter Fieldhouse. A photo will be taken of the graduate once they check in and then the graduate will proceed to Peden. The format of the ceremony will be as follows:
 - Names of those who are in-person will be read first.
 - Those participating virtually will be read second.
 - The plan is to hold a separate ceremony for graduate students.

7. Remarks by Graduate College Faculty Fellow: Beth Quitslund

- Beth updated the council on the Higher Education Council (HEC)-Pakistani Partnership. To date, 101 student inquiries have rolled in. OHIO University has invited 51 students to apply for various programs. Currently, 16 applications have been completed. There are 36 partial applications. Please note, only some of these applicants have been invited to apply.

8. Bridge/Curriculum Committees: Sara Helfrich

The following programs will move forward to the March UCC meeting from the UCC Programs Committee.

New Programs

College of Fine Arts

- CTX26G Graduate Music Theory Pedagogy Certificate
 - 9 credit hours (MUS 5040, 5903, and 6930)

Action – Updating Graduate Council only

Changes

Voinovich School

- MS6956 Master of Science in Environmental Studies*
 - Reduction of credit hours from 40 to 36; substitution of two core courses with a new course and a course developed for our upcoming online degree; addition of a Mentored Writing capstone option; updated program elective requirements; and updated Research Methods course list
 - Question from Programs Committee: Regarding the mentored writing and capstone justification – HTC students using Thesis to satisfy master requirements – Graduate Catalog prohibits utilizing capstone project across two degrees? Is there new knowledge creation or is it repackaging HTC knowledge?

Action – More discussions need to occur within the program and UCC Programs Committee. Others expressed an interest in clarity to how to make this blended HTC/graduate program possible. Having a pipeline would assist other programs wanting to do something similar.

Expedited Changes

College of Arts & Sciences

- MA5237 Master of Arts in English Online (Graduate Catalog cleanup)

College of Fine Arts

- MM5182 Thesis/ Recital Track (Graduate Catalog Cleanup)

College of Health Sciences & Professions (All program names change from Post-Master's to Post-Graduate per accrediting body's request)

- CTANPG Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Post-Master's
- CTFNPG Family Nurse Practitioner Post-Master's
- CTPMHN Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Post-Master's

Patton College of Education

- MS8160 Coaching Education
 - Add 3 elective course options to program (COED 5212, 5305, 6050)

Action – Updating Graduate Council only

Notifications

College of Business (All programs no longer requiring GMAT/GRE for admission)

- MBA6141; MS8149 MBA/MSA Dual Degree
- MB6123 One Year MBA
- MY6163 Master of Accountancy

Action – Updating Graduate Council only

9. Program Review Committee: Lijing Yang

College of Business Review Report

Overall, we agreed with the review team's judgement that the College of Business (CoB) is viable. The commendations of CoB include the positive cultural and morale during the pandemic, experiential learning, community engagement and partnerships, innovative and adaptive curriculum, and thorough assessment framework. The graduate programs have demonstrated strengths in substantial expansion in enrollment from 2013-19, responsiveness of staff, satisfaction in student and alumni, deliberate and structured graduate advising, high retention rate, active evaluation in student demands, and exemplary assessment.

In general, the Dean's responses to the areas of concerns and review recommendations were thoughtful and positive. Our Program Review subcommittee found the teaching load issue has not been addressed in the Dean's responses. The CoB faculty expressed concerns that teaching load is heavy and overload contracts seemed to be normalized. Such trend is not sustainable if no additional faculty is hired for the new growth in enrollment. Another consequence is that it limited faculty time for high quality research. We encourage CoB to provide response and action plan to address this issue.

Action – Program is viable and council had no concerns.

10. Graduate Student Affairs and Fellowships Committee: Pete Harrington

Named Fellowships deadline is today, March 5, 2021. More to come on the Named Fellowships.

11. Policies and Regulations Committee: Greg Newton

After discussions between the committee and the Office of the University Registrar, Greg updated the council on the use of PR grades for thesis and dissertation sections. Deb Benton was present at the meeting and shared the current state. Deb stated that some colleges are aligned with how these are reflected, some are not. Deb's main question is: Should we move forward on PRs or should we have broader discussion about grading these courses (GEC 4 or 5). The committee has additional questions to consider.

- What would be the implications if we added a “credit/no-credit” option?
- Would there be GPA impact if we make these changes?
- What have other institutions learned when transitioning?

Per Deb, if a new policy goes into effect, the policy should be forward looking only. In addition, OHIO University may need to establish a new grade code, perhaps a new grade eligibility code 08.

Action – David will survey the CCGS schools for more information for this committee to consider. Once gathered, the committee will take this information into account as it considers the next steps.

12. Recruitment and Admission Requirements Committee: Luke Pittaway

No conflict of interest (COI) cases to review.

Luke mentioned that Graduate Council needs a plan about how to handle Conflict of Interest cases over the summer. The question posited was: Can we deputize the associate deans over the summer to consider any COI cases?

Action – Council members approved associate deans being deputized to consider these cases over the summer.

13. Old Business

Nothing to report.

14. New Business

Nothing to report.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 pm.