Graduate Council Minutes  
Friday, December 11, 2020


Excused: Pete Harrington, Lesli Johnson, Sally Marinellie, Carol Schaumleffel, Assan Sarr, and Kelley Walton

Convened: The meeting was convened at 3:04 pm.

1. Approval of the minutes from the November 6, 2020 meeting
   
   Council action: Minutes were approved.

2. Chair’s Report: Gordon Brooks
   
   Gordon asked if there were any concerns about our January meeting being scheduled for the first week of classes. Members expressed no concerns, so the meeting will be on January 22nd.

3. Graduate Student Senate Report: Kaelyn Ferris
   
   In the upcoming semester, GSS intends to collaborate more with Student Senate and International Student Union. Also, GSS will be focusing attention on with identifying resources for students in preparation for the transition back to in-person instruction. As an update, GSS discussed the grading policy and endorsed using the same policy for graduate students that was approved for undergraduates.

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

   Application numbers since July 1 are up. Some may be deferrals, but regardless, applications were higher than ever.

   As of December, the graduate student head count for fall was 5,500. This, too, was higher than ever.
During fall semester, the Graduate College restarted regularly scheduled graduate chairs meetings.

Graduate Merit Scholarships for Spring semester were announced before Thanksgiving.

David mentioned several significant points emphasized at a conference held by the Council of Graduate Schools:

- Graduate programs need to recognize the importance of recruitment. Programs can no longer sit back and wait for the students to come. With many institutions intensifying their recruitment efforts for graduate students, Ohio University will need to do the same.
- Many students who are applying for graduate school are demanding more attention. This is a new phenomenon and may come as a surprise to staff.
- Many schools are looking at waiving application fees. The Graduate College has structural and financial barriers to doing this. Please note, the Graduate College has begun conversations with various campus parties about creating our own application to better support this kind of active recruiting.

David updated the council members on the Named Fellowships. The Graduate College has awarded up to five fellowships each year, but this money is not endowed and comes straight out of the Graduate College budget. In the past, these fellowships have not been used strategically, and, in many cases, students receive less in stipend dollars than what they were awarded by their home department. The Provost has asked the Graduate College to see if there is a better way to use this money. Be aware, the call for nominations will not go out as usual. The Graduate College will keep you informed as we know more.

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

Katie shared the Graduate College operations schedule for over break. If there is anything students need completed before January, students should get information to the Graduate College as early as possible on the week of December 14th.

Katie also shared the plans for the fall commencement.
6. Remarks by Graduate College Faculty Fellow: Beth Quitslund

Beth has received many requests to remove the GRE requirements from the catalog. Please note, the decision about requiring the GRE is up to the program. Contact Beth for removal from the catalog and Nikole Morris for removal from the application.

7. Bridge/Curriculum Committees: Sara Helfrich

The following programs were moved forward to the December UCC meeting with no concerns from the UCC Programs Committee:

Changes

College of Arts & Sciences
- MA5241 Philosophy
  - Changing some courses and increasing required credit hours from 30 to 33

College of Health Sciences
- MS1213 Nurse Educator
  - Reducing from 33 to 32 credit hours; changing the name of a course; changing some courses (resulting in credit hour change and allowance for electives); removal of GRE as admission requirement
- CTNEDG Nurse Educator Certificate
  - Reducing from 15 to 10 credit hours; changing the name of a course; changing some courses (resulting in credit hour change); removal of pre-requisites to allow students to take courses in any order; changing admission requirements to reflect national standards
- MS1214 Family Nurse Practitioner
  - Reducing credit hours from 38 to 37
- CTFNPG Post Master’s Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate
  - Reducing credit hours from 20 to 19
- CTPMHN Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Post-Master’s Certificate
  - Making changes to some courses, adding a course while deleting another course, and reducing time to completion, resulting in no changes to total credit hours (20)
- MSXX11 Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
  - Making changes to some courses and adding a course while deleting another course, and reducing time to completion, resulting in increasing required credit hours from 37 to 38

Patton College/Voinovich School
- CTX59G K12 Education Public Policy Leadership
Reducing credit hours from 12 to 9 to streamline course content and meet the needs of their potential audience

**Expedited (items related to Graduate Catalog clean-up):**

College of Fine Arts
- MM5054 Music Performance – MM (Performance/Pedagogy)
- MM5181 Music Performance – Performance

Scripps College
- MA5332 Organizational Communication

*Council action: There were no comments on the changes or expedited items.*

8. Program Review Committee: Lijing Yang
   
   Nothing to report

9. Graduate Student Affairs and Fellowships Committee: Pete Harrington
   
   Pete announced the deadline for MAGS Excellence in Teaching Awards and asked Graduate Student Senate to distribute more information about these awards.

10. Policies and Regulations Committee: Greg Newton
    
    Nothing to report

11. Recruitment and Admission Requirements Committee: Luke Pittaway
    
    Luke reminded the council members that all standardized testing (GRE and GMAT) requirements are up to the graduate programs.
    Luke reported the committee’s discussion about felony disclosure. He reminded the council that reporting requirements for a felony is a disclosure required by Legal Affairs and not within Graduate Council’s purview. Luke asked whether the council should consider understanding how other institutions ask this question on their application. Luke stated that the committee will continue its work on reviewing transcript requirements of other institutions. The question centers around whether applicants need to submit all prior undergraduate transcripts regardless of completion. Of course, it is understood that Ohio University would want to see transcripts if an applicant had behavioral concerns at a previous institution.
Luke presented two batches of conflict-of-interest cases for the council’s review.

- First group – The committee found no conflicts and recommended this group for approval.

  * Council action: The council approved the committee’s recommendations.
  * Amuda, Deep Sagar
  * Barnhardt, Caitlin
  * Lake Hawkins, Lindsay
  * Lovely, Troy
  * Newton, William
  * Vlasak, Candace
  * Ward, Lindsey
  * Thayer, Sarah
  * Van Hemert, Jivanto

- Second group – The committee recommended these students for approval with conditions applied.

  * Council action: The council approved the committee’s recommendations.
  * David, Craig
  * Fiorelli, Stephanie
  * Robinson, Keana

12. Old Business

   Nothing to report

13. New Business

   Shawn Ostermann presented concerns about the university’s decision to change the digital signature process. Shawn described the importance of the digital signature and access to a document for verification purposes. He expressed his concern about the OIT solution. What OIT has proposed is a document that lives in Microsoft only. There is no permanent PDF document to refer to if necessary. Shawn suggested that Graduate Council may want
to weigh in on this discussion. Others expressed concern about this change as well. Joe Shields mentioned that he has attended meetings where these concerns have been raised to the Ohio University leadership and OIT.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 PM