

## Graduate Council Minutes

October 9, 2020

**Attendance:** Deb Benton, Gordon Brooks, Geoff Dabelko, Kaelyn Ferris, Andrea Frohne, Ann Frymier, Pete Harrington, Sara Helfrich, Arthur Hughes, Janet Hulm, Lesli Johnson, Paul Jones, David Koonce, Joseph Lee, Sally Marinellie, Brian McCarthy, Greg Newton, Patrick O'Connor, Shawn Ostermann, Luke Pittaway, 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, Andrew Fodor, Jacob Hain, and Assan Sarr

**Convened:** The meeting convened at 3:01 pm.

1. Approval of the minutes for the September 18, 2020 meeting

*Action* – Minutes were approved with a friendly amendment to include web pages used in Gordon's introduction to council member resources at the September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

2. Chair's Report: Gordon Brooks

Gordon offered clarification on how the council will conduct voting virtually. He will ask for all those in support and all those opposed to indicate this verbally. If it is close, he will use a method where everyone votes in the chat.

Gordon updated the council that one of our members, Assan Sarr is on sabbatical this year. If this seat remains empty this year, the council will still meet all requirements.

3. Graduate Student Senate Report: Kaelyn Ferris

GSS council representation is now complete. Kaelyn introduced the GSS representatives on Graduate Council. The representatives are Jacob Hain, Amid Vahedi, and Charlotte Yang. Amid Vahedi is serving as the alternate GSS representative.

4. Remarks by Dean of the Graduate College: Joe Shields

Joe announced one staffing update from the Graduate College. Pamela Gordon retired. Jan Harmon has been hired into this role and starts Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>.

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

David offered a snapshot of applications so far. Currently, 1,400 applications have been received. This is 9% ahead of last year at this same time.

As for enrollment, David announced there are 5,480 unique graduate students. This number includes certificates and non—degree students. At census date, the number was at 5,427.

David announced an update on a Higher Learning Commission (HLC) requirement. If a program changes 25% of its courses or content, new approval is required. Ohio University will seek clearer understanding of this from the state. As a note, currently, Ohio University does not have this granularity of detail in OCEAN.

In addition, David announced that the state needs to know if the university is suspending admission of a program. Ohio University will need to develop a process to gather this information.

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

Katie shared information about commencement, which is scheduled for Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. This updated information is available on the commencement web site. Fall commencement will be a virtual ceremony. Speeches will occur first, then degree conferral will occur in the following order: doctoral students, masters students, undergraduate students. Special Events has contracted with an outside vendor to create a video. This video will cover both summer and fall graduates. If students have any questions, direct them to the commencement web site (<https://www.ohio.edu/student-affairs/commencement>).

For fall, graduate degree conferral needs to be done quickly. University-wide furlough dates have complicated this process. Katie is working with the Office of the University Registrar and they will run their DARS and fall degree/deny reports for master's students on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Doctoral conferral confirmation/DARS reports will run the week

before commencement (perhaps by December 10<sup>th</sup>). The confer/denial deadline is January 11, 2021.

7. Remarks by Graduate College Faculty Fellow: Beth Quitslund

Nothing to report.

8. Bridge/Curriculum Committees: Sara Helfrich

Sara updated the council and shared there are no new programs up for review. Sara informed the council of the following actions.

- Program suspensions:
  - Patton College (2)
    - Critical Studies in Education (ME6227)
    - Blended Early Childhood and Special Education (ME6876)
- Graduate Curriculum Cleanup for several programs:
  - Arts & Sciences (6)
    - Chemistry (MS331, MS3317, PH3311)
    - English (MA5321, PH5321)

Two program changes are up for review. Two program suspensions were noted from Patton College of Education.

9. Program Review Committee: Lijing Yang

Lijing announced that the committee does not have a lot of programs to review.

The committee did review one program in Mechanical Engineering and offered the following summary. The committee identified the program as viable. The program has high retention and placement rates. Engagement and graduate student publication rates are great. There is concern about the low number of faculty, limited facilities, and shortage of lab space. Diversity of faculty is encouraged. The timing of the review was challenged with the pandemic. Originally, the review was done in March, the chair's review occurred in April, the dean's review in August.

Lijing reminded the council of its role. The council offers comments/concerns and forwards these comments onto to UCC.

*Action* – The council approved the committee's comments being forwarded. Lijing Yang will offer this feedback to UCC.

10. Graduate Student Affairs and Fellowships Committee: Pete Harrington

Pete thanked the Graduate College for the work on the Graduate Student Awards & Fellowships Opportunities web page (<https://www.ohio.edu/graduate/graduate-directors-webpage/graduate-student-award-and-fellowship-opportunities>). The committee requested help from GSS with advertising this link and sending out an email blast to all graduate students.

Pete requested a graduate student representative be assigned to this committee. Kaelyn Ferris will be serving on this committee.

11. Policies and Regulations Committee: Greg Newton

This committee will be reviewing policies/procedures surrounding those with graduate appointments (GAs/RAs/TAs) who resign early.

Greg requested a graduate student representative be assigned to this committee.

Kaelyn will work with Gordon about assigning a new representative from GSS.

12. Recruitment and Admission Requirements Committee: Luke Pittaway

The Admissions Requirements Committee recommends approval of the following for registration.

- Carow, Colleen

This committee recommends approval for this student by the council.

*Action* – Council approves recommendation.

- Hamrick, Ricardo

This committee recommends approval for this student by the council.

*Action* – Council approves recommendation.

13. Old Business

Nothing to report

14. New Business

The updated membership lists for committees can be found at the following link:

<https://www.ohio.edu/graduate/staff/graduate-council/gc-committees>.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:52 pm.