

Graduate Council Minutes

Friday, January 18, 2019

Attendance: Gordon Brooks, Spencer Cappelli, Terry Cluse-Tolar, Charlotte Elster, Pete Harrington, Chris Hayes, Janet Hulm, Wojciech Jadwisienczak, Paul Jones, Joseph Lee, Brian McCarthy, John McCarthy, Maria Modayil, Munir Nazzal, Shawn Ostermann, Ann Paulins, Beth Quitslund, Jennifer Smith, Scott Smith, Jessica Wingett, Charlotte Yang, and Lijing Yang

Excused: Geoff Dabelko, LJ Edmonds, Andrew Fodor, Alexandra Hibbitt, David Koonce, Chris Moberg, Greg Newton, Erik Ramsey, Andy Ray, and Katie Tadlock

Convened: The meeting was convened at 3:03 pm.

1. Approval of the minutes from the December 7, 2018 meeting

Action: Approved

2. Chair's Report: Gordon Brooks

Gordon announced that Graduate Student Senate (GSS) will be making announcements during the monthly Graduate Council meetings.

Maria updated the council on the following activities

- a. *Graduate Professional Appreciation Week* is scheduled for April 17-23. There will be a keynote kick-off event and Final Gala/Award Ceremony. Others are encouraged to host events. Please let her know if your college or program does want to hold an event.
- b. *GradConnect* – GSS coordinated a monthly social event for graduate students at Jackie O's. Different units have hosted these events, for example, Diversity and Inclusion, Student Affairs, Center for International Studies. If interested, let Maria know
- c. Student Affairs seeks applications/nominations *Graduate Student Awards*. Please encourage graduate students to apply.
- d. *Presidential Graduate Student Medals* applications/nominations are being collected now.
- e. *OHIO Emergency Micro-grants* are available now.
- f. The *Women in Grad School Day Conference* is scheduled for February 9, 2019. There will be several different tracks for participants to attend.

Student Senate has presented a constitutional amendment which seeks to change their reporting structure; Student Senate will no longer want to report to the Board of Trustees. This impacts GSS. GSS voiced their concerns. GSS will update the council in March.

3. Remarks by Interim Associate Dean of the Graduate College: Beth Quitslund

- a. Beth added the following information about the change with Student Senate. The Vice-President for Student Affairs (VPSA) will continue to serve a Student Senate advisor
- b. Beth outlined the plan for the new Graduate Catalog. Updates will be due soon. The Graduate College will be sending templates out in early February. Beth announced that the Graduate College is still accepting Three Minute Thesis registrations.
- c. Beth shared that the Graduate College is cleaning up legacy appointments in OGA. A number of special cases have been accepted in the past and currently the staff are looking to standardize appointments and maintain consistency.
- d. **Accelerated Master's Pathways** will be discussed in the next EPSA meeting, Beth seeks input (See Appendix A).

- i. Since the last council meeting, Katie Tadlock and Beth Quitslund met with key groups, both service units (e.g., financial aid, admissions, registrar, etc.) and faculty members (Sara Helfrich, Connie Patterson, Gordon Brooks) about this project. Beth would like the council to consider the following principles for discussion. In any accelerated Master's Pathways Program, the program needs to stay true to the following five principles.
 - Principle 1 – Students should be adequately prepared for graduate coursework.
 - Principle 2 – The graduate program should not interfere with timely completion of the bachelor's degree.
 - Principle 3 – Accelerated master's degree programs should allow equal access.
 - Principle 4 – Accelerated programs are an opportunity to reduce redundancy in coursework and credit hours.
 - Principle 5 – All accelerated pathways should meet the previous principles, but will need flexibility in design.
- ii. Council discussion included:
 - For the Principle 4, Graduate Council suggested replacing “reduce redundancy” with “enhance efficiency”.
 - The council wants to be mindful that the rigor of graduate school may discourage students.
 - Graduate Council has an interest to be sure that students have the ability to back out of the accelerated program, if necessary.
 - Council members suggested that Ohio University may need an adaptive management strategy.
 - The council supports limiting the number of graduate credits before finishing the baccalaureate degree.
 - Graduate Council wants to eliminate the risk of losing students and prevent any risk to university.
- iii. **Action:** Graduate Council is supportive of the five (5) principles. In addition, Graduate Council created an ad hoc committee to work with EPSA. Those interested in being on the ad hoc committee are: Gordon Brook, Pete Harrington, Brian McCarthy, John McCarthy, and Shawn Ostermann. If there are others, please let Gordon know of your interest.
- e. Beth presented a conflict of interest dilemma. The question is – What is a terminal degree?
 - i. The Graduate College views a terminal degree as a degree you would need to hold a tenured position.
 - ii. The problem: A letter of employment was written to include getting a terminal degree as a condition of employment. The problem is that the employee is pursuing a degree in the college where employed.
 - iii. Graduate Council agrees that as long as the employee does not pursue a degree from Ohio University, the condition of employment is acceptable. Graduate Council is not comfortable with a college writing a condition of employment which states the degree must be from Ohio University.
 - iv. Graduate Council expressed concerns about the current Conflict of Interest (COI) form not capturing the complete picture and recommends that a review of policy occur. This review may result in the need to refine current policy to explicated state what is and is not allowable to prevent this in the future. In addition, Graduate Council noted that PRC of Faculty Senate should be made aware of this situation.

- v. In this instance, Graduate Council recommends allowing this employee to proceed as planned but with a COI plan to deal with potential ramifications.
4. Curriculum Committee: Chris Hayes
 - a. Time to completion for stackable certificates
 - i. Chris Hayes reviewed the committee's recommendation (See Appendix B).
Maximum time to completion for individual certificate
 Under 15 credits – 4 years
 15 or more credits – 5 years
Stackable master's degree
 *A master's degree made up of stacked certificates has the same time limit for completion as any other master's degree, i.e. 6 years from the date that graduate study is initiated (7 years for a degree requiring more than 40 hours). If the student begins one or more stackable certificates before being accepted into the master's degree program toward which the certificates build, the total time from the start of applicable certificates to the completion of the master's degree cannot exceed 10 years.
 - ii. For transfer time limit, the program sets the limits.
 - iii. Same extension policy as current master's policy.
 - iv. This is a preliminary update. The committee will go back a revise with the council's suggested revisions.
 - v. Graduate Council suggested 3 and 4 years for certificates, and eight years for Master's. These are intended to be outer limits, programs can have inner limits.
 5. Program Review Committee: Charlotte Elster
Charlotte will work with Gordon to talk with John Cotton. Committee asked for some clarification about role as it relates to UCC.
 6. Graduate Student Affairs and Fellowships Committee: Pete Harrington
MAGS Excellence in Teaching Award – There are five nominees to consider. The nomination is due to MAGS on 1/25/19
 7. Policies and Regulations Committee: Shawn Ostermann
Shawn offered Graduate Recruitment Scholarship (GRS) historical review.
Committee recommends changing to a \$975 stipend for 5 hours of work (from 6 hours)
Change the registration to 12 hours (from 15 hours). Some council members have concern about lost subsidy. Graduate Council wants to understand how the change in registration hours will impact subsidy and asked that this be explored.
ACTION: Funding change passes.
 8. Recruitment and Admission Requirements Committee
Committee reviewed three COI and recommends that Graduate Council approve the Conflict of Interest plan.
ACTION: The council approves the recommendations.
 9. Old Business – None
 10. New Business – None

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 pm.

Appendix A

Accelerated Master's Pathways: Principles for a Framework

Definitions

- **Accelerated Master's Pathways**—intentional blending of undergraduate and graduate degree progress (currently exists for Biochemical Engineering)
- **Early Graduate Assurance/ Early Assurance Program**—provisional admission to a graduate program for a future term (currently exists for HCOM)
- **Early Admission**—student has completed all baccalaureate requirements except minimum hours AND switches to graduate status/graduate appointment eligibility when beginning graduate work (existing policy for any major/graduate degree).
- **Senior for Graduate Credit**—student has a maximum of 6 credits left before completion of bachelor's degree (existing policy, no implied admission to a graduate program)

N.B.: These are not to be confused with taking graduate courses for undergraduate credit (existing policy for all varieties of honors students).

Principles and Policy Implications

Principle 1: Students should be adequately prepared for graduate coursework.

Policy implications

- Students should do preparatory work in the discipline before undertaking more advanced graduate work.
- Students should have demonstrated sustained success in college-level work (including a minimum number of credits completed) before starting graduate work.

Principle 2: The graduate program should not interfere with timely completion of the bachelor's degree.

Policy implications

- A limit on graduate credits before the baccalaureate is complete is advisable.
- Graduate status and appointments should wait until the baccalaureate is complete.

Principle 3: Accelerated master's degree programs should allow equal access.

Policy implication

- The program curriculum should not depend on a plan of study that makes the student ineligible for federal financial aid. In practice, this means allowing 12 hours of undergraduate credit each semester.

Principle 4: Accelerated programs are an opportunity to reduce redundancy in coursework and credit hours.

Policy implication

- "Double dipping" of a limited number credit hours between undergraduate and graduate programs should be allowed.

Principle 5: All accelerated pathways should meet the previous principles, but will need flexibility in design.

Policy implication

- Accelerated master's pathways should go through the regular curricular approval process.

Appendix B

Certificate completion and stackable certificate policy recommendations

The Graduate Council curriculum committee makes the following recommendations;

Maximum time to completion for individual certificate

Under 15 credits – 4 years

15 or more credits – 5 years

Stackable master's degree

*A master's degree made up of stacked certificates has the same time limit for completion as any other master's degree, i.e. 6 years from the date that graduate study is initiated (7 years for a degree requiring more than 40 hours). If the student begins one or more stackable certificates before being accepted into the master's degree program toward which the certificates build, the total time from the start of applicable certificates to the completion of the master's degree cannot exceed 10 years.

Transfer of coursework (time limits)

The transfer of coursework from another university should follow existing guidelines for degree programs, but there is currently no time limit on transferring internal coursework. Programs may establish their own criteria for how long Ohio University credit taken while enrolled in one degree or certificate program will be accepted toward another degree or certificate based on appropriate disciplinary standards.

*Programs may establish shorter completion timelines, but cannot exceed these established deadlines.