

Graduate Council Minutes

Friday, November 2, 2018

Attendance: Gordon Brooks, Spencer Cappelli, Terry Cluse-Tolar, Geoff Dabelko, LJ Edmonds (proxy – Bose Maposa), Andrew Fodor, Pete Harrington, Janet Hulm, Wojciech Jadwisienczak, Paul Jones, David Koonce, Joseph Lee, Brian McCarthy, John McCarthy, Maria Modayil (proxy), Munir Nazzal, Greg Newton, Shawn Ostermann, Erik Ramsey, Jennifer Smith, Scott Smith, Katie Tadlock, Jessica Wingett, Charlotte Yang, Lijing Yang

Excused: Charlotte Elster, Chris Hayes, Alexandra Hibbitt, Chris Moberg, Ann Paulins, Beth Quitslund, Andy Ray

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

1. Approval of the minutes of the October 12, 2018 meeting

Action: Minutes were approved.

2. Chair's Report: Gordon Brooks

Gordon updated the council on this year's committee structure. In addition, Gordon outlined some committee membership changes. These changes are as follows. Chris Moberg and Scott Smith will be serving on the Curriculum Committee. Wojciech Jadwisienczak and Lijing Yang will be serving on the Program Review Committee. Erik Ramsey and Charlotte Yang will be serving on the Graduate Student Affairs and Fellowships Committee. Alexandra Hibbitt will be serving on the Recruitment and Admission Requirements Committee.

3. Remarks by Interim Dean of the Graduate College: David Koonce

- a. Data overview –

David shared graduate student enrollment numbers for the current semester (Fall 2018). Although enrollment dropped from last fall (2017), the current census numbers are up slightly to 5242 from the originally published numbers. Ohio University continues to see a decline on the traditional student side, growth continues with on-line and outreach. Doctoral enrollment is down 5%. E-campus enrollment is up 7%. Those enrolled in master's degree programs increased by 5%. Professional program enrollment is up; research program enrollment is down. Non-degree enrollment is down by 14%. Online Graduate Appointments (OGA) have increased by 5%.

- b. David asked for guidance from Graduate Council on two issues –

- i. David seeks guidance on conflict of interests as it relates to university employees. What do we do over the summer since Graduate Council does not meet during the summer months? David mentioned that some colleges review electronically. Is this something Graduate Council would consider doing?
- ii. In addition, he is asking for clarification about the definition of a terminal degree. Is an MBA a terminal degree?

Action –

Graduate Council asked that these two requests go to the Recruitment and Admission Requirements Committee for recommendations. Geoff Dabelko, chair of this committee would like to meet with representative from the Graduate College to get practical guidance.

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

- a. Early admission/accelerated degree programs –

Katie asked for guidance on early admission/accelerated degree programs. Katie outlined the work so far. Katie and Greg Newton have met preliminarily to discuss this. Beth Quitslund has worked with Elizabeth Sayrs and Dr. Sayrs is taking the lead on this conversation with curriculum faculty. Katie and Beth are asking Graduate Council to get the lay of the land and outline guard rails.

Graduate College continues to hear more interest in developing 3 +1 programs. Knowing there are funding implications, Katie asked any recommendations keep Financial Aid involved in the discussion.

Questions posed to Graduate Council include:

- What are your concerns about undergraduate entry and graduate programs blending? Is there a bridge too far?
- Do we need to think in terms of credit hours instead of years?
- How do we ensure that a student does not get too far without having earned an undergraduate degree? How do we ensure that someone does not get too far only to find he/she cannot finish a degree? What is the limit?

- What are the funding implications? When does the graduate admission occur? Should there be milestones to achieve before full admission is granted?
- At what point does a student need to be advised that they can no longer take graduate credit? When have students reached the tipping point?
- What are the implications for grading? Note – If taking a graduate course as an undergraduate, the graduate course is figured in the undergraduate GPA.
- What are the time limits? There are no time limits on the undergraduate degrees, however, graduate programs are time limited. When does the clock start?

Action – The Policy and Regulations Committee will discuss this further.

b. Three-course certificates –

Katie asked for guidance on whether a student can transfer credit into a three-course certificate program. Currently, the graduate catalog contains no language addressing this. How do we deal with this? Can we do this? Are there implications with the stackable certificates?

Action – The Curriculum Committee will discuss this matter. Gordon confirmed that he will talk directly with Chris Hayes, the chair of this committee, about this issue.

5. Curriculum Committee – Nothing to report

6. Program Review Committee – Nothing to report

7. Graduate Student Affairs and Fellowships Committee –

The committee reviewed all 2019 MAGS Distinguished Thesis Award (Social Science category) nominees and has nominated Joseph Ross for the Social Science category. The nomination materials have been submitted to MAGS for consideration.

The 2019-20 Named Fellowship nomination materials are available now on the Graduate College website.

8. Policies and Regulations Committee –

The committee made the following recommendation for the repeat/retake courses:

Graduate students cannot repeat or retake a passed course that meets their program requirements. Katie Tadlock will work on the exact language and bring it back to Graduate Council.

9. Recruitment and Admission Requirements Committee –

The Committee will be reviewing the following question: What constitutes a terminal degree?

10. Old Business –

Policy review – Eliminating tuition waiver when student quits a graduate appointment (initially discussed at the October 12 meeting)

Current practice: When a graduate student remains in the degree program, but quits a graduate appointment, the stipend ends, but the tuition waiver continues. Do we need to examine this? Are some students abusing this practice?

Comments from the council–

The council wondered how University Human Resources (UHR) handles this with employees and if this could serve as a guide.

Maria Modayil asked that Spencer to read a statement where she expressed concerns with changing current practice.

Actions –

- Graduate Council agrees that a graduate student who is leaving their academic program does not need to repay the tuition scholarship. Policy language about the withdrawal from leaving the institution – no need to repay.
- Graduate Council needs more information to consider whether graduate students who remain in their degree program need to repay the tuition scholarship.
- Gordon will gather information from Graduate Student Senate, the Graduate College and UHR for further discussion with Graduate Council.

11. New Business – Nothing to report

The meeting was adjourned at 4:06 pm.