

Graduate Council Minutes

Friday, October 12, 2018

Attendance: Gordon Brooks, Spencer Cappelli, Terry Cluse-Tolar, Geoff Dabelko, Andrew Fodor, Pete Harrington, Chris Hayes, Janet Hulm, Wojciech Jadwisienczak, Paul Jones, Joseph Lee, Brian McCarthy, John McCarthy, Maria Modayil, Munir Nazzal, Ann Paulins, Beth Quitslund, Erik Ramsey, Jennifer Smith, Scott Smith, Katie Tadlock, Jessica Wingett, Charlotte Yang, Lijing Yang

Excused: LJ Edmonds, Charlotte Elster, Alexandra Hibbitt, David Koonce, Chris Moberg, Greg Newton, Shawn Ostermann, Andy Ray

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

1. Approval of the meeting minutes

Graduate Council approved the following meeting minutes April 13, 2018 and September 7, 2018.

2. Chair's Report: Gordon Brooks

- Gordon asked that all members introduce themselves.
- The council agreed that printed agendas for future meetings are not necessary.
- A faculty representative from Fine Arts is on sabbatical this year, so Gordon will work with Faculty Senate to find a replacement for the year.
- Gordon clarified the committee structure approved at the last council meeting. What was formerly the Curriculum Bridge Committee will be two committees, the curriculum committee and the programs review committee.
- Although committee items were placed on the agenda for this meeting, committee chairs will be adding things to future agendas.

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

- Beth reported that graduate enrollment is down. The overall projection is that Ohio University graduate student enrollment will be down by 200 overall compared to last year. International graduate student enrollment has seen a decline since in 2015 and the decreasing number of students from China has impacted overall graduate student enrollment as well.

- Beth stated that the Graduate College GRADS update is now complete. Graduate College staff member, Nikole Morris offered 3 trainings for those who were interested. The trainings were offered for both beginners and advanced users.
- Beth announced that the Graduate Director Handbook will be available online very soon.
- Beth informed the council that the former “Primer” resources will be replaced with a “Quick Start Guide”. It will include quick facts, resources, and contact information. Please let Beth know of other things to include.
- Beth introduced a policy matter for the council to consider. There seems to be a GRS hour conflict with the new stipend amount based on the new pay policy for graduate students introduced in the spring 2018. Beth asked that the policy be forwarded to Policy and Regulations Committee chaired by Greg Newton to consider the options. A couple options include: Evaluating the number of 5 hours/week and/or the stipend amount.

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

- Updating Grade Descriptions in the Graduate Catalog
Katie reviewed with the council to the handout that was distributed via email. When updating the last graduate catalog, the Graduate College worked to more accurately reflect current policy. The University Registrar has requested that EPSA to weigh in. For context, the current undergraduate catalog outlines that a “D” is the minimally acceptable grade. Katie asked the council to consider what is minimally acceptable for graduate students. The next catalog will be published mid-summer 2019, so the review of this language is needed during this academic year.

Actions

- The Policy and Regulations Committee reviewed the Grade Descriptions and recommends that Graduate Council move the information to EPSA.
- Graduate Council approved the recommendation moving to EPSA.
- Senior for Graduate Credit – (appears below in Recruitment Committee as well)

Katie reviewed the handout provided electronically.

Council questions/comments included:

Is there a petition process?

If a student starts out badly, can they still participate if they have demonstrated improvement in coursework in the last number of hours?

Could the evaluation of the GPA be focused on courses within the student's major?

Should committee also consider the number of semesters this can be done?

Why only one semester after 90 hours? Why not 2 semesters? This could have Financial Aid eligibility effects.

Council suggested committee to recommend two or three options, perhaps changing the semesters of eligibility and consider talking with Financial Aid.

Although currently only two programs offer this, others are interested.

Action

-This process will be explored by the Recruitment and Admissions Requirements Committee. The committee will bring their recommendation/s back to the full council.

- Katie announced that graduate application revisions are now live. The newly revised application contains tweaked information about English as a second language. In addition, the application now includes a Certifile option. This option offers a credential evaluation by third party NACES organization. When the assessment is complete, the document assessments are uploaded directly to their application file. The Graduate College will still assess documents, but this is another option for applicants.

Council expressed some concern about this option because any additional fees could impact international applicants.

5. Curriculum Committee – Nothing to report
6. Program Review Committee – Nothing to report
7. Graduate Student Affairs and Fellowships Committee

The MAGS Distinguished Thesis Awards deadline is scheduled for October 15, 2018.

The council asked that the deadline be extended Wednesday, October 17, 2018. An email announcement about the extended deadline will be sent out to all graduate chairs/coordinators/directors and administrative staff.

8. Policies and Regulations Committee is considering the issue of counting credits for the same courses in multiple degrees/certificates. The committee bring recommendations back to council soon.

9. Recruitment and Admission Requirements Committee is considering two policy issues: Minimum Admission GPA for Senior Graduate Credit and Conflict of Interest concerning what constitutes a terminal degree. The committee bring recommendations about both issues back to the council soon.

10. Old Business

Katie reviewed the “Retaking a course” language in the Graduate Catalog. The current policy lacks clarity. Katie asked Graduate Council draft clearer language.

One suggestion for the council included the following: A student can only retake a course if the student earns below a C (2.00) and/or below the program requirements.

NOTE 1: Graduate students can earn a C- (1.67), D+ (1.33), etc. Faculty Senate has determined these earned grades are used to compute GPA. Courses where these grades are earned do not figure into the GPA as an F (0.00), even though grades earned below a C (2.00) are considered failing in graduate school.

NOTE 2: Each program can set higher standards.

Action

-The council sent item to Policies and Regulations Committee for review.

11. New Business

A policy clarification is needed. If a student with a graduate appointment quits, the stipend ends on the date of termination. Is the tuition scholarship pro-rated, correct? If the term has started, the tuition scholarship money has been spent. Does this policy need to be reviewed? – The council suggested this be revisited at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:09 P.M.