

## Graduate Council Minutes

Friday, April 12, 2019

**Attendance:** Spencer Cappelli, Terry Cluse-Tolar, LJ Edmonds, Charlotte Elster, Andrew Fodor, Chris Hayes, Wojciech Jadwisienczak, David Koonce, Joseph Lee, Brian McCarthy, Maria Modayil, Shawn Ostermann, Ann Paulins, Beth Quitslund, Jennifer Smith, Jessica Wingett, Charlotte Yang, Lijing Yang

**Excused:** Gordon Brooks, Geoff Dabelko, Pete Harrington, Alexandra Hibbitt, Janet Hulm, Paul Jones, John McCarthy, Chris Moberg, Munir Nazzal, Greg Newton, Erik Ramsey, Andy Ray, Scott Smith, Katie Tadlock

Brian McCarthy served as Chair in the absence of Gordon Brooks.

**Convened:** The meeting was convened at 3:05 p.m.

1. Approval of the minutes from the March 8, 2019 meeting  
**Action:** Approved.
2. Chair's Report: Brian McCarthy  
No report.
3. Graduate Student Senate (GSS) Announcements
  - A. GSS brought forward GSS Resolution 1819-50 (see **Appendix A**), passed on April 2. The resolution asked Graduate Council, among other university bodies, to support the assertion that GSS, rather than Student Senate, serves as the governance body representing graduate and professional students at OHIO. GSS noted that an online petition has garnered signatures and that there have been letters to the editor in support of full separation from Student Senate.  
**Action:** Graduate Council voted to support the principle that GSS represents graduate and professional students while Student Senate represents undergraduates. It requested Dr. Brooks to write a letter conveying that support.
  - B. Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation will be observed at OHIO April 17-23. The committee has arranged for a keynote speaker, Kathryn R. Wedemeyer-Strombel, who is receiving her Ph.D. this spring from the University of Texas at El Paso and has been an activist for graduate student work-life balance. There is also a fundraiser through Chipotle, several events hosted by colleges or units, and an awards celebration on April 23. Colleges have been asked to financially support the events.
  - C. The Commencement zipper pulls created in collaboration with the Alumni Association will be in vinyl this year and distributed to all students participating in Commencement. Next year, those for graduate students will be in metal with vinyl versions for the undergraduates. The design selected was the one in the shape of the state of Ohio.
4. Remarks by Interim Dean of the Graduate College: David Koonce
  - A. Between 850 and 870 students participated in this year's Student Research Expo, and about 250 faculty and staff members served as judges.
  - B. OHIO's senior leadership would like to increase the number of doctoral students, which has slipped over the past few years. While no concrete steps have yet been outlined, there will be some focus next year on reenergizing doctoral education. As a result, the following topics are likely to come to Graduate Council and the Graduate College:
    1. CGS Ph.D. Pathways-type programming. Because there will not be a great deal of demand for new faculty, we will need other career planning and preparation for Ph.D.s.

2. A continuous enrollment policy. It is not good practice for the university or the students to lose contact mid-degree.
  3. The likelihood of a new doctoral subsidy model from the state. The proportions allocated to each institution have been frozen based on 1994-99 doctoral headcount. These proportions may move to being based on a rolling 3-year average headcount—which is likely to result in lower subsidy for OHIO due to declines in doctoral enrollment.
  4. The place of Ph.D. awards in Carnegie Research classifications: institutions with much higher Ph.D. production than OHIO can equal our position or even gain Highest Research status with lower funded research. This may be part of our strategy to reach the Highest Research category.
  5. Application and acceptance rate: Spring had a 13% increase in applications over last year (120), while summer and fall are down (summer -45, 3.3%; fall -80, 2.6%). Domestic is down, while international is up. In total for 2019, we are down 5 applications out of about 7000.
5. Remarks by Interim Associate Dean of the Graduate College: Beth Quitslund
- A. The repeat/take again catalog language was approved by Faculty Senate on 4/8.
  - B. The issue of how to handle graduate program teach-outs was raised. The issue is that the catalog specifies a maximum time to degree, while programs may not have the resources to continue offering degree components for an additional 4-7 years after the decision is made to shutter it. There needs to be catalog language signaling to students that the maximum time may not apply in the case of a teach out and guidance to programs about appropriate teach out plans.  
**Action:** Send to Policies Committee.
  - C. Beth reported that the ODHE had signaled that the Chancellor would probably approve the CCGS recommendation to allow combined bachelor's and master's degrees to contain a minimum of 141 credit hours when 9 graduate hours double count for undergraduate requirements. The catalog language governing Accelerated Graduate Pathways was brought for a vote.  
**Action:** The policy was approved.
6. Curriculum Committee
- A. Program Proposal Reviews  
Programs under review at UCC were sent to all committee members, and no feedback was received. This was understood to mean that those programs were not problematic. Discussion suggested that committee members might not know what aspects of the proposals to focus on, and that it might be a good idea to work with the chair of the UCC Programs Committee to create a checklist. David also suggested that he or Beth be consulted on any such checklist. The idea of streamlining by dividing the programs between committee members was also mooted. David noted that the increasing number of proposals probably warranted streamlining the process, but cautioned that having a variety of knowledgeable eyes on each was also important.
7. Program Review Committee
- A. Program Review Packages
    1. Political Science – Declared “viable,” but that is a collective appraisal of the department’s offering. While the undergraduate program appears strong, the review committee notes serious issues with the M.A. in that it lacks an identity and may not provide tracks for training in different areas. There was considerable discussion about the program, including its reliance on GRS appointments, how funding for students might best be acquired, and how the department understands the role of the graduate program.

2. Teacher Education – Also “viable,” but with concerns about the graduate component. The undergraduate program is quite large (about 1400 students) while the graduate program is comparatively small (about 200). The program size means that graduate classes are offered inconsistently and frequently as overloads. The Dean suggested that the graduate program could grow by retaining undergraduates into the graduate program, but the number of dual-listed courses seems to make that a poor option for OHIO Education majors.
  3. Counseling and Higher Education – A graduate-only program declared “viable.” Charlotte noted that the program could not locate the previous 7-year review.
  4. Center for International Studies – The programs were declared viable, though Charlotte noted that there was no curriculum committee in place. LJ responded that the review process had been extremely helpful, and that a curriculum committee had been formed.
- B. Graduate Council will register concerns about the graduate programs in Political Science and Teacher Education. Graduate Council recommends that particular attention be paid to the viability of the graduate program in the next review of Political Science. Charlotte will draft a statement to be reviewed by the committee before sending it to Gordon.
8. Graduate Student Affairs and Fellowships Committee  
No report
  9. Policies and Regulations Committee
    - A. Double-counting of credits between certificates and degree programs: The committee recommends that all certificate credits may be shared with an affiliated degree program. There was discussion of the dual degree form currently required to add a certificate, and the committee agreed that some mechanism would be required to add a certificate plan stack.  
**Action:** the proposal was approved.
10. Recruitment and Admission Requirements Committee  
The committee is working on language about how to approve Conflict of Interest forms coming in during the summer for fall admission. At issue is what reasonable expectations are for programs, applicants, and Graduate Council, including whether it is possible to have the committee meet virtually in summer. The bottom-line message is that programs should get COI forms in early and make sure that they are specific about the potential conflict and the mitigation plan.
11. Old Business  
Nothing to report.
  12. New Business  
Nothing to report.

## Appendix A

### Resolution 1819-50: Support from Graduate Council and Faculty Senate for GSS

1. *Whereas*, the Graduate Student Senate (GSS) is a functionally autonomous members of the Ohio University system of shared governance; and,
2. *Whereas*, it has been the majority opinion of GSS, in order to fulfill our goal to represent graduate and professional students as one of the five Senates at Ohio University, independent and unambiguous representation is necessary; and,
3. *Whereas*, current governing documents of Student Senate claim representation for *all students*, which includes graduate and professional students, causing a split constituency and overlap of representation between Student Senate and GSS which causes confusion and hinders our ability to build community; and,
4. *Whereas*, we in GSS have advocated for structural change in Ohio University shared governance bodies so we can effectively and efficiently represent the graduate and professional students of Ohio University by better delineating the constituencies of GSS and Student Senate; and,
5. *Whereas*, even though GSS has existed as a vital member of the shared governance system at OHIO since the early 1960s, little to no change has been made to institutionally support the independent and autonomous functioning of GSS with regard to the overlap in constituents; and,
6. *Whereas*, such a structure is important for the vitality of the GSS, and to advance graduate education at OHIO; therefore, be it,
7. *Resolved*, that GSS ask support from graduate student- centric councils on campus including Graduate Council and Faculty Senate to endorse GSS being an independent and autonomous body that is unambiguous to our constituency group; and, be it further,
8. *Resolved*, that this resolution be send to the President Nellis, Provost Djalali, Vice President Pina, Student Trustees, Board of Trustees Secretary, Vice President Shaffer, Graduate Council Chair Dr. Brooks and members of Graduate Council, and Faculty Senate Chair Joe McLaughlin.

Sponsors,

Brett Fredericksen

Department Representative for Environmental and Plant Biology

Charlotte Yang

Senator for Graduate College

Kayla Gross  
Department Representative for Counseling and Higher Education

Fazel Bateni  
Senator for Russ College of Engineering and Technology

Amid Vahedi  
Department Representative for Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Maria Modayil  
President