

Graduate Council Minutes

Friday, November 3, 2017

Attendance: Emilia Alonso-Sameno, Tim Anderson, Seth Baker, Steve Bergmeier, Gordon Brooks, Terry Cluse-Tolar, Megan Conkle, Geoffrey Dabelko, Lorna Jean Edmonds, Pete Harrington, Jennifer Horner, Wojciech Jadwisienczak, David Koonce, Chris Moberg, Shawn Ostermann, Andrew Ray, Joseph Shields, Jennifer Smith, and Scott Smith

Excused: Sonsoles DeLaCalle, Charlotte Elster, Travis Gatling, Alexandra Hibbitt, Janet Hulm, Chulho Jung, Brian McCarthy, Maria Modayil, Greg Newton, Ann Paulins, Erik Ramsey, Gaurav Sinha, and Katherine Tadlock

Convened: The meeting was convened at 3:08 pm.

1. **Approval the minutes**

Minutes from the October 13, 2017 meeting were approved.

2. **Chair's Report: Steve Bergmeier**

No report

3. **Remarks by Dean of the Graduate College: Joe Shields**

- Joe described the offer letter review process that the Graduate College is undertaking. The letters offer lots of variation and the Graduate College is analyzing letters with intent to offer the standardized letters or paragraphs that the departments/programs can insert.
- One member suggested the Graduate College write the appointment letter with departments/programs address additional information in an attachment. Joe stated this may be the outcome, but it is too early to say for sure until the analysis is complete. The suggestion will be taken under advisement.

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

David informed Graduate Council of the following:

- University Curriculum Council (UCC) has announced that all courses will need to include course level outcomes in materials send to UCC for review.
- The Graduate College website is currently being migrated to the new website content management tool. This website may be live by November 10, 2017. The Graduate College is early in the migration process and the new tool seems to focus on the fact that users are viewing the pages via cell phone which leaves the webpages looking quite different on a desktop, for example there is a lot of white space than in the previous tool.
- Applications are about three days behind hovering at a 8.5% decline in graduate applications. It is still early, but international and online applications are down currently.
- Chancellor's Council of Graduate Studies (CCGS) met and the following was discussed:
 - The time to degree is proving to be difficult to figure for most graduate schools.
 - Some graduate schools/colleges have started tracking employment data after graduation.

- Many schools are celebrating Graduate Student Celebration Week which is held in the first week of April.
- CCGS discussed a recent report and wondered whether there are unintended consequences by approving so many new degree programs.
- CCGS confirmed that starting next year, the pre-proposal step for the approval of new programs will be eliminated. This process revision will be piloted for one year.
- For degree programs where 50% or more of the program is new/different, these programs should use the change proposal process first. If, after the council reviews all the necessary materials and deems it necessary, the program may be advised to complete the new degree process instead. It is subject to CCGS's findings after the initial review.
- CCGS discussed the number of stipends and fee waivers offered to graduate students. David observed that Ohio University seems to fund more than others graduate schools/colleges.

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

No report

6. Bridge Committee discussion led by Tim Anderson

- a. Programs Committee has a two-meeting rule. For the first meeting, the Programs Committee will bring the programs to Graduate Council for review. At the second meeting, the Programs Committee will see comments from Graduate Council. The following two programs were presented for their first reading. Please read them and be prepared to make comments at the next Graduate Council meeting.
 - i. Master of Science in Business Analytics (MSBA)
 - ii. Master's in Law, Justice & Culture
- b. Program Review Committee
 - i. Art + Design
 - 1. Tim Anderson summarize the report by saying the program is great, the facilities are deplorable, and there is concern about absence of eliminated faculty lines.
 - 2. Steve Bergmeier summarized comments provided by Alex Hibbitt's since she was unable to attend the meeting. The comments centered on the negative comments pertaining to the photography program and Steve asked that these we included when the report is sent back to UCC.
 - ii. Information and Telecommunication Systems
 - 1. Tim Anderson summarize the report by saying the program is viable although there are remaining questions about whether there will there be resources for move to Dublin.
 - 2. Graduate Council provided no additional comments.

7. Policies and Regulations Committee discussion led by Emilia Alonso-Sameno

- a. Childbirth and adoption leave of absence for graduate students – policy proposal (first reading)
 - i. Emilia Alonso-Sameno summarized the policy.
 - ii. It was noted that a form needs to be developed.

- iii. On the first reading of this policy proposal at Graduate Council, this proposal prompted the following comments/questions for consideration.
 - 1. Is 6-weeks long enough?
 - 2. What is the university policy?—Should graduate students be treated the same faculty/staff?
 - 3. How will this impact international students?
 - 4. Is this paid? If this is paid, should it be included in the title?
 - 5. Members asked for eligibility rational. It was clarified that to be eligible graduate students need to have completed 2 consecutive semesters and 15 credit hours.
 - 6. Graduate Council suggested that the last paragraph of section #5 which states “reasonable progress” needs to be clarified.
 - 7. Graduate Council suggested that the last paragraph of section #5 needs to be clarify who approves this time away.
 - 8. Does Graduate Council need to consider Ohio University deadlines that may be impacted like like thesis/dissertation deadlines?
 - 9. A request was made to be clear that the academic clock, progress to degree, does not stop and is this clear in the policy, as written.
 - 10. Some wondered is this really two policies?
 - a. First, do I get paid?
 - b. Second, what are the academic implications?
 - 11. Graduate Council wonder about the cost implications. Does the way a graduate student is funded have implications on whether this policy applies to you? Could we get estimates? Do the colleges just absorb the cost or figure out a solution?
 - 12. Is this an opportunity to illustrate how family friendly Ohio University is? Does it send the message we want to send? While viewing this through an Equity/Diversity lens—we are committed to doing this? How can graduate students stay full-time students with a new child? The distinction between primary and secondary care-giver, does it suppose outdated roles?
 - 13. Is timing of leave hard and fast?
 - 14. Where does it go if we approve this?
 - 15. Graduate Council wants to be sure this is consistent with other policies
 - 16. Graduate Council is committed to tightened up this policy
 - 17. Graduate Council emphasized the need for communicating clearly.
- iv. Next steps—Graduate Council sent this policy proposal back to committee for revision and form development.

8. Old Business

- a. ETD proposal from Creative Writing—Discussion was tabled until further notice.

9. New Business

- a. Perfusion Degree, Master degree, partnership with Cleveland Clinic—
Discussion was tabled until further notice.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 pm.