

Graduate Council Meeting

April 8, 2016

Attendance: Steve Bergmeier, Geoff Dabelko, Sonsoles De Lacalle, Andrea Frohne, Jennifer Horner, Janet Hulm, Chulho Jung, David Koonce, Bose Maposa, Ann Paulins, Martin Mohlenkamp, Liudmila Pestun, Joseph Shields, Gaurav Sinha, and Gursel Suer.

Excused: Emilia Alonso-Sameno, Tim Anderson, Austin Babrow, Michelle Ferrier, Jody Lamb, Jundong Liu, Krisanna Machtmes, Vladimir Marchenkov, Brian McCarthy, Chris Moberg, Shawn Ostermann, Erik Ramsey, Anirudh Ruhil, Carl Smith Katherine Tadlock.

Convened: The meeting was convened at 3:21 pm.

1. Chair's Report (Steve Bergmeier)

Steve said that the final meeting of Graduate Council will be on April 29th, 2016. He introduced the GSS representatives Ian and Alex, who will most likely serve on Graduate Council next year.

2. Remarks by Joe Shields, Dean of the Graduate College

Joe said the general fee buy-down has been a topic of discussion at the academic leadership committee. Discussion has focused on the nature of the general fee, its impact on graduate students and to what extent can it be tied to graduate appointments. He said that unfortunately, the discussion about health insurance has not yielded results thus far, since per the federal rules, all the recommendations that have been made have been ruled illegal.

3. Remarks by David Koonce, Associate Dean of the Graduate College

David said that Sara Armstrong, Director of TAD Services and Digital Processes has accepted another position at the university and her last day at the Graduate College will be Friday, April 15, 2016. He added that Lois Hatfield, who had been assisting Sara will step-in and cover until someone else is hired. David said that the job was posted today and the goal is to get someone in as soon as possible.

David said graduate applications are up by 6 % this year.

David informed members that the updated version of the graduate chair handbook will be available online next week.

David informed members that GRADS version 2.2 was released on Monday. He added that with increased functionality and many new features, it should be even more helpful to academic programs. He added that if any of the programs would like to get their students' life-cycle documents scanned and available through GRADS, the Graduate College can help

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facilitate it. The heavy duty scanner at the Graduate College can be used for scanning those documents.

David said that all graduating Master's students have been sent the exit survey, and that he will bring the results to the first meeting in the fall.

Discussion focused on the health insurance subsidy (\$40) and that IRS rules it illegal since it is considered as the subsidization of an individual plan. Only group plans are eligible for subsidies. In response to a question from Alex if it was possible to have the student's plan aggregated, it was noted that the University of Dayton included their graduate students on their faculty plan and they were able to provide a subsidy to their students. David said that he is not sure if it would be possible to do the same at Ohio University. David also said that this has been discussed at the CCGS as well, since the IRS rules that apply to small businesses are hurting graduate students financially.

4. Report from the Curriculum Committee

Jen said that the document about professional doctoral degrees has been reviewed three times and the only substantive change in the version in today's packet is about the residency requirement associated with stipend support and registration hour requirements.

Members discussed the GPA requirement for certificates, and it was noted that it is possible for students to get an A in all of the classes required for the certificate, and maybe a B- in one of the classes. The proposed change in language would prevent the student with the above mentioned grade distribution from earning the certificate. It was also noted that it might deter students, fee-paying and the ones on assistantships from adding certificates to their existing academic plans. More discussion will take place before a vote.

5. GSS: general fee buy-down process for graduate students

It was noted that graduate students do not use the same university resources and facilities as the undergraduate students and that the activities that the general fee funds are not aligned with the interests and needs of graduate students. Members noted that the tuition and general fee are bundled together; and if a decoupling of those fees was possible, it could potentially lead to having the general fee go towards the facilities/resources that would be useful for graduate students. Joe said that the decisions about the allocation of the revenue from the general fees are made by the President and the Board of Trustees. It was also noted that the graduate students should also be able to avail the advantage of the Ohio tuition guarantee rates.

More discussion will follow at future meetings.

6. Report from the Recruitment and Admissions Requirements Committee

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Ann said that conflict of interest case of Cimmeron O'Connor is being handled by the academic college; and that she will have a new advisor for her program.

Gursel said that the committee recommends using the Common European Framework of Reference and the Cambridge English Proficiency tests as additional tests to the iBT and IELTS for non-native speakers of English to demonstrate English proficiency. It was noted that only a few universities in the US accept these tests and us accepting them might give us some competitive advantage.

Gursel said that the survey he designed for newly admitted students and for the ones who were offered admission, but did not come to Athens, would be sent to all members.

Meeting ended at 4:28 pm.