

Graduate Council Minutes

September 11, 2015

Attendance: Tim Anderson, Austin Babrow, Steve Bergmeier, Geoff Dabelko, Michelle Ferrier, Janet Hulm, Chulho Jung, Jody Lamb, Krisanna Machtmes, Bose Maposa, Martin Mohlenkamp, Shawn Ostermann, Ann Paulins, Erik Ramsey, Anirudh Ruhil, Joseph Shields, and Katherine Tadlock.

Excused: Sonsoles De Lacalle, Andrea Frohne, Jennifer Horner, David Koonce, Jundong Liu, Vladimir Marchenkov, Brian McCarthy, Chris Moberg, Carl Smith, and Gursel Suer.

Convened: The meeting was convened at 3:07 pm.

1. Approval of Minutes of the May 1 2015 meeting

The minutes of the May 1, 2015 meeting were approved.

2. Chair's Report (Steve Bergmeier)

Steve thanked Chris Mattley for her service as chair of Graduate Council these past few years. With a few new people on the council, Steve requested everyone to introduce themselves. It was noted that GSS representatives were not at today's meeting. Joe said that it is not just this committee, but GSS has not nominated members to other committees across campus as well. Shawn asked if this needs to be looked into and if this body can help in any way. Steve said that he believes that it would be beneficial to graduate students to be on this committee, since this body serves as an advocate for graduate education. He added that he will send an email to Eddie to talk about GSS representatives attending the Graduate Council meetings. Geoff said that Eddie is in one of his classes and he could also try initiating an informal conversation with him.

Steve said that per the list of members and committee members that was circulated earlier this week, the Recruitment and Admissions Requirement and the Planning and Strategy committees need chairs. Krisanna volunteered to chair the Planning and Strategy committee, thus leaving a vacant spot on that committee.

Per the input from all members and Jody (chair of the Graduate Students Affairs and Fellowships) the internal deadline for accepting nominations for the MAGS distinguished thesis award was established as October 20th, 2015.

3. Remarks by Joseph Shields, Dean of the Graduate College

Joe informed members that Vicky Hixson, the graduate appointment administrator in the Graduate College, recently resigned from her position. A search is in progress to fill the vacancy. He said that if members experience any issues, they can contact him, David, or Lisa Poston.

He introduced Sara Helfrich as the Faculty Fellow at the Graduate College. Sara said that she is working on two major events, a performance by Theater Delta on November 2nd and 3rd and a Three Minute Thesis competition in February 2016. She said that the Theater Delta presentation is

geared towards graduate students, but if departments want their honors undergraduate students to attend the event, that would be helpful to them. She said that the interactive performance will depict issues familiar to all of us. The group involves the audience members to talk about advisor-advisee relationships and ethics in research and scholarship. This event will be advertised on the Graduate College website. The Three Minute Thesis concept was developed at the University of Queensland and has been very popular all over the world. About 300 universities have adopted it on their campuses. She added that it is open to all masters and doctoral students who are enrolled during the spring semester, and have not defended their thesis or dissertation. She said that she will hold information sessions and will help students if they have questions about preparing their presentations. Sara noted that per the Registrar's office, the class room reservations for this event in February can be made after November 17th. So, once they are made, she will post this information on the Graduate College website. In response to a question from Shawn, Sara said that they will hand out prizes for this event. She is still working on those, she added. Sara also said that she will send a monthly newsletter via email to all graduate students.

Joe encouraged faculty to attend the Theater Delta event as well. He said that faculty will benefit from attending it. He added that the performance is very well done and that this engaging medium helps us reflect on our own interactions in these situations. He requested assistance in advertising the event. Joe said that the Three Minute Thesis presentations help build communication skills for our students. It also builds visibility for the projects that our students are working on for their degrees.

Joe said that the Graduate College will be sponsoring a showing of The Ph.D. Movie (both the original and a new sequel). He said that these movies are produced by the same people who produce PhD Comics. Joe added that we are the first campus in Ohio to show this movie. These movies will be shown on October 5th at Memorial Auditorium and admission is free. Shawn and Steve endorsed the movies as well.

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

Katie pointed to the handout in today's packet that was given to all graduate coordinators on August 20th, 2015 during the graduate chair information session. She said that the document includes information about registration and some policies that apply to graduate students. Katie said that she and David have been going back and forth on the revisions for the Graduate Catalog and expect it to go live soon. She added that they are still waiting for information from a couple of departments and that she is working on the Student Services piece.

Katie told members that the university will hold a fall commencement on December 12th this year. She said that David ran some reports and we found that most of the graduate students graduate in the fall semester. This will be a combined ceremony but it will run more like a graduate commencement ceremony than an undergraduate commencement ceremony. The ceremony will have a processional and a recessional. She added that Event Services is working on seating arrangements for the event. She added that with many students having already gone from campus, finding Marshalls has also become a major task for them. Katie said that conversations are ongoing regarding printing deadlines for the program. She added that since the TAD deadlines for fall 2015 had been posted a while ago and students have been working towards meeting those deadlines, it would not be fair to change those. Members echoed the same sentiment and

recommended that deadlines not be changed. Katie said that having a Fall commencement should release the pressure off of Spring semester deadlines. This year, students who graduated in Summer, or will graduate this Fall have a choice of attending either the Fall or the Spring ceremonies. But, for the future, the conversation is headed where students who graduate in the Summer or Fall, would be able to participate only in the Fall commencement ceremony. Katie added that she is updating the commencement website, to include more information about the ceremony, and not just the hooding process. She said that typically, master's students find this information on their college website, but having some of the information available centrally might help students. Ann said that Master's students should also have all their requirements completed for degree conferral before participating in the ceremony. Katie said that this can be revisited.

5. Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee (Tm Anderson): Tim said that things are working well with the bridge committees for the Program committee and the Program Review committee of UCC. Ani said that the three big issues discussed at a recent meeting of the Programs committee were: lack of consistency regarding number of hours required for certificates, requirement of a minimum GPA for certificates, does not seem that programs are following the process for having programs approved. For the latter, he referred to the flow chart that David had circulated amongst members. He added that programs are coming to UCC for approval before being approved by the academic college. Michelle said that another issue that needs to be looked at is the possibility of de-coupling the requirement of licensure as a part of the degree requirement for some programs in the Patton College of Education.

Tim asked if members had comments for the three program reviews that he had sent to all members earlier in the week. He said that we are not required to provide long reports. He said that the review for Social and Public Health was a fairly long report and it seems like a viable set of two programs. He added that the MHA is a large program with 434 students in it, and all of them are fee-paying students. He said that the program seems to be well run and received positive comments from the reviewers.

The program review for English also deemed the program viable and reviewers noted positive comments for it as well. He said that the review noted that the program is facing extraordinary external challenges and that the number of majors has dropped by 46% since the last review. One of the recommendations was to fuse the three areas of creative writing, rhetoric and literature into one. Katie added that there is only one plan code for this degree, irrespective of the areas of specialization.

Tim said that the program review for Psychology was also positive and that he recused himself from it, since he is from that department.

Since, no one expressed any concerns or provided any comments for the three reviews; Steve said that he will follow up with a note that Graduate Council does not have any additional comments.

6. Conflict of Interest Reviews

Steve said that this item came up for discussion in his meeting with Joe earlier in the week. He added that the Recruitment and Admission Requirements committee handles these reviews. He

said that during the summer these do not get reviewed by this body and thus during the Fall, there are usually a fair number that need to be reviewed. One suggestion was to have a rotating member of the Recruitment and Admissions Requirement committee work with David to review these. This would allow for those where there was no conflict to get registered; for the ones where there was minimal conflict to register while the review takes place; and for the ones where there was a significant conflict, no registration would be allowed until it was resolved.

Ann said that the conflict of interest deserves an extensive review by a committee. She added that having multiple people review it allows for various perspectives. Steve said that we can have a larger committee for this, which would allow at least some members to be present for this process during the summer. Katie said that many years ago, Graduate Council authorized her to review the conflict of interest cases as they get submitted to the Graduate College. She said that her charge was to clear the ones where there was no conflict. She added that if any of the boxes noting 'yes' for conflict were checked, or, if they were not, but she thought that there was a conflict, she would forward them to the committee—as she has continued to do.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 pm.