



## Graduate Council Meeting Notes

Friday, September 17, 2021

12-1:30

Zoom

### ATTENDEES

Tamara Allard, GerShun Avilez, Debabrata Biswas, Tom Cohen, Abhijit Dasgupta, James Duncan, Andrew Elby, Ken Elpus, Annemarie Ewing, Steve Fetter, Brooke Fisher Liu, Christina Getrich, Henry Gittens, Paul Gold, Doug Julin, Byung-Eun Kim, Amna Kirmani, Katy Lawley, Lindsey May, Susan Moeller, Steve Mount, Amy Mullin, Matthew Nesson, Autumn Perkey, Annie Rappeport, Scott Roberts, Aaron Roth, John Shea, Edmond Shenassa, Jeffrey Shultz, Robert Sprinkle, Amanda Strausser, Paul Turner, Sennur Ulukus, Alexander Williams, Patrick Wohlfarth

GS Staff: Wendy Koch, Simone Warrick-Bell, Maria Palmaira, Amanda Strausser, Linda Macri, Blessing Enekwe, Angela Ambrosi, Anna O'Connell, Teddy Wu

1. Welcome to these new members for AY 21-22:
  - Debabrata Biswas (AGNR); Ken Elpus (ARHU); Christina Getrich (BSOS); Patrick Wohlfarth (BSOS); Jeffrey Shultz (CMNS); Steve Mount (CMNS); Sennur Ulukus (ENGR); Susan Moeller (JOUR); Andrew Elby (EDUC)
  - Tamara Allard (GSG President); Annie Rappeport (GSG VP); Aaron Roth (CMNS student); Autumn Perkey (BSOS student); Annemarie Ewing (ARHU student); Metecan Erdi (ENGR student)
2. Approve [April 19, 2021 Graduate Council meeting minutes](#)
  - Approved unanimously without comment.
3. Welcome and announcements
  - 2021 gradSERU results to be available on reports.umd.edu by Sep. 29
    - Results will be available on [reports.umd.edu](https://reports.umd.edu) within the next week to both faculty and students.
    - Currently working on the year over year comparison for previous results.
    - If you have any questions, please email Dean Fetter at sfetter@umd.edu.
  - Graduate enrollment update
    - Enrollment has bounced back, particularly among new students and international masters students.
    - New student enrollment is above Fall 2019 level which may be due to the increased number of deferrals in AY 2020-2021.
    - We are recruiting more domestic masters students, primarily in business and engineering.
  - [New graduate student orientation](#) (including the TerrapinSTRONG onboarding)
    - 2277 enrolled, 1866 completed (↑68% from previous year)



1. This is more participants than when it was in person previously and last year.
  - HEERF-III emergency grants: \$6,124,000 awarded to 2,054 graduate students
    - This was the first time international students were eligible for these funds.
    - Worked with the office of financial aid to evaluate applications and make recommendations.
  - Fellowships for Ph.D. candidates delayed by COVID: 70 Summer, 54 Fall
    - For students that have no other form of support. The GS awarded 70 in the summer and 54 in the fall to help students progress in their degree.
  - Updated travel guidance [draft message to DGS](#)
    - Considers any travel needed for degree progress as essential travel and therefore will provide funding subject to the advisor and department (dean if international travel).
    - There are currently no travel restrictions in the area.
4. Policy discussion items, revisions and updates - **we will vote using a Zoom poll**
  - [Remote Defense Policy](#) -- feedback on the return to in-person defenses (discussion)
    - We have always had a policy in place for a committee member to participate remotely. For this semester the GS will exercise more flexibility and review requests for students, chairs or the dean's representative to participate remotely. We would even consider the possibility of completely remote defenses in some circumstances.
    - There is a process for requesting the any/all participants to be remote.
    - We did a survey about remote defenses, it was found that while remote defenses are much more convenient and allow more participants from the committee, there are issues with the quality of the presentation. Some faculty felt the defense experience was not the same as an in person defense.
    - With the support and guidance of the Provost's office, we are returning to the original policy.
    - If you have questions or concerns, please email [graduate-dean@umd.edu](mailto:graduate-dean@umd.edu).
  - [Draft GOA Pilot Report](#) and next steps (discussion)
    - Process started before Deans Fetter and Liu joined the grad school over 5 years ago.
    - 8 programs volunteered to pilot the program before the pandemic and most continued to do so during the pandemic.
    - This is not a voting item and they would like feedback / a pulse check.
    - Data suggests that this is a reasonable program to roll out across campus.
      1. The accreditation agency requires some type of program for graduate outcome assessment and this would satisfy that.
    - The Council discussed if this would be reasonable to roll out across campus.
    - A few members do not like the process in general and voiced their concerns.
    - One member who participated in the pilot found that it was just something to "check a box" however is less burdensome than the previous iteration and departments could edit it to find some ways to improve the program.
    - Another department said it was helpful to check their priorities and was a way for them to underline things that mattered to the department.



- Those who were members of the pilot group generally thought positively of the process and used it to create conversations among faculty members regarding student expectations.
- We will follow up with DGS to see how the GOA is aligned with professional accreditation assessments.
- Revision to the [Policy on Waiver of Mandatory Fees](#) (discussion and vote)
  - This is to make the policy less vague as well as widen the scope of the waiver.
  - It was previously implemented so that only doctoral students doing off campus research would be approved for this.
  - VOTE: 28 Vote in Favor; 1 Abstention
- Revision to the [Procedures for the Oral Dissertation Defense](#) (discussion and vote)
  - [BTAA Peer Analysis](#)
  - [Document with changes tracked](#)
  - [Clean document](#)
    1. This document clarifies possible results of a defense.
  - Discussed the major changes to the policy and opened it up to discussion.
  - We wanted to be clearer on the difference between failing the defense and getting another option or failing the defense and taking major course work.
  - There is now a 2 month deadline between the defense failure and when the committee needs to reconvene.
  - We hope we have streamlined the oral defense portion.
  - Looks to circulate a minor revision after the meeting regarding repeating a closed door session only.
  - No vote was held.
- [Process](#) for making post-submission corrections to theses and dissertations (discussion and vote)
  - Would create a process for when students realize an error and want to make a correction post submission.
    1. This may play a role with scholarly misconduct which may lead to degree revocation.
    2. Would be done with the support of their advisor.
    3. Most peers do not have a policy for thesis or dissertation corrections.
  - VOTE: 24 Vote to Approve; 2 Abstentions
- 5. Topics for (future) discussion
  - Reduced tuition rate for [clinical internship and apprenticeship courses](#)
    - Majority are billed at the out of state tuition rate which can be burdensome to students (80% of graduate students are classified as non residents).
    - Only applies when supervision is being provided at an external site and not by the University.
    - Propose that there is a new tuition rate of 1 in state tuition credit (current in-state rate is \$768) for the students. This would have to be approved by the Budget Office.
    - This would cover full time experience and the university is not providing instruction or significant supervision, then even masters would qualify.
  - Holistic admission training for programs



- We are considering whether we should offer training to programs in holistic admissions. If you have any feedback, please let us know.
- Deadline for accepting an offer of admission
  - We are considering if there should be expirations to offers of admission. Some programs already do this, but it is not consistent across UMD.
  - Dean Fetter proposes the date of August 1st with the ability for programs to opt out.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:25pm.**

***These minutes were unanimously approved at the 10/13/21 Graduate Council Meeting.***