



Graduate Council Meeting Notes

Thursday, 4/21/2022

11-12:30 pm

Zoom

ATTENDEES: Lindsey May, Laura DeMaria, Annemarie Ewing, John Shea, Patrick Wohlfarth, Katy Lawley, Steve Mount, Doug Julin, Amy Mullin, Jeffrey Shultz, Paul Gold, Andrew Elby, James Duncan, Steve Fetter, Debabrata Biswas, Tamara Allard, Annie Rappeport, Robert Sprinkle, Edmond Shenassa

Ex Officio: Henry Gittens, Matt Nessian, Betsy Beise

Graduate School Staff: Susan Martin, Robyn Kotzker, Christopher Perez, Maria Palmaira, Patty Woodwell, Heather Kissinger, Fan Tsao, Simone Warrick-Bell, Spencer Benson, Blessing Enekwe, Waqeelat Gaji

AGENDA

1. Welcome
 - a. Thank you to outgoing members GerShun Avilez, Amna Kirmani, Dave Waguespack, John Shea, Amy Mullin, Tom Cohen, James Duncan, Katy Lawley, and Rob Sprinkle
 - b. Welcome to new members: Helim Aranda-Espinoza, Leila De Florian, Lucy Qiu, Jason Rudy, David Van Horn, Leonid Korolov (still waiting for BMGT and INFO)
 - c. Welcome to new Graduate School Associate Dean Jason Farman
2. Approve [March 14, 2022](#) meeting minutes: Approved
 - a. Are we moving forward with the statements of mutual expectation for graduate mentoring? Yes, we will be moving that forward.
 - b. We will now post the Graduate Council agendas for the meetings here: <https://gradschool.umd.edu/about-us/advisory-boards-and-councils/graduate-council/graduate-council-meetings>.
3. Updates and announcements
 - a. [Report](#) on exceptions to the [Graduate Faculty Appointment Procedures](#)
 - b. Flagship, President's, and McNair fellowships
 - Successful recruiting season.
 - Increased number of fellowship offers from 40 to 70.
 1. 2nd highest number of applicants in this application cycle.
 - 13 President fellowship offers accepted.
 - 12 McNair fellowship offers accepted.
 - c. Exceptional recruitment funds and Spring/Summer COVID-delay fellowships.
 - Match offers that programs make for underrepresented groups.
 - Increased number of requests (52 requests).
 1. Totalling \$320,000



- Offering fellowships for spring and summer for doctoral students whose research was delayed by COVID.
 1. The deadline is tomorrow. (4/22/22)
 2. No departmental matching requirement.
 3. Had over 50 applicants by the time of this meeting, but more applications are coming in.
 4. We will publish an annual report in the fall with data from all fellowships and awards that the Graduate School gave.
- d. [Graduate Assistant stipends for FY23](#)
 - 3% cola and campus is increasing minimum stipends by 6.1%.
 - 9.3 % increase over the January level.
 - Over 26% increase since last fall.
 - The increased stipends help the University be more competitive with its offers. It also allows us to support graduate students through completion.
 - The campus will be providing this support as long as they are on a state account. If the GA is on a research account or self-support unit, those increases will have to be provided.
 - The President and Provost make funding decisions, with recommendations from the Budget Advisory Committee.
 - Please note that the Graduate School only sets minimum stipend levels, and programs are encouraged to offer higher stipend levels that are more competitive with other programs in their field.
 - Questions/Concerns:
 1. They have lost 4 Ph.D. students to other universities' stipends. MIT calculator says 25,000 does not cover all of the cost of living in the area.
 - a. This stipend memo is the minimum stipend, and departments are allowed to supplement.
 - b. 1/3 GA receives 12-month appointments or receive hourly appointments for the summer.
- e. Graduate student housing at Courtyards; \$5 million for GS housing in the FY23 budget.
 - 100 Units
- f. Upcoming Doctoral Career Conferences
 - 5th annual [Doctoral Career Pathways Conference](#) 5/2/22-5/6/22
 - [Aurora's 9th Annual Beyond the Professoriate Career Conference](#) - 5/7/22 & 5/14/22
 1. Need to register with CAS login.
 2. Please share!
- g. [3MT winners](#)
- h. May 11 end-of-year celebrations, Charles Carroll Room, Stamp; hors d'oeuvres and beer and wine served; Graduate Council members are welcome—please register.
 - Fellowship & Award Celebration 3-4pm (go.umd.edu/2022GSAwardCeleb)
 - Doctoral Graduation Celebration Reception 5-6pm (go.umd.edu/2022docgradceleb)

4. Discussion



- a. Remote thesis and dissertation defenses
 - Proposed revisions to the [remote defense policy](#)
 1. Approved 17/18, and 1 abstain
 2. Questions/Concerns
 - a. The wording of “fully present” to “fully attentive.”
 - [Summary](#) of remote defense requests for fall 2021 and spring 2022.
 - Review policy early next year for possible post-COVID changes?
 1. Various expressions of support for revisiting these policies and taking advantage of remote options in extreme circumstances.
 - b. [Proposed modification](#) to the GA additional employment policy.
 - Prompted when full-time GA took on a full-time job after accepting a full time GA.
 - Councilors were concerned that students would still take on employment outside of their GA, but if this policy is passed then they would not be able to be compensated for their GA. There are concerns that there would be students working and not getting paid.
 - If the student is making satisfactory progress, should we be concerned? Not having a strict employment policy allows the student agency in their time.
 1. This creates accountability for GAs, the same faculty and staff accountability.
 - The policy will stand-
 1. 5 approve.
 2. 7 do not approve.
 3. 4 abstain.
 - c. [GSG resolution](#) on exit interview/survey of students who drop out.
 - Hopefully, there will be more honest responses with the graduate school distributing the survey.
 - Questions:
 1. Will students who don't pass comps also be surveyed?
 - a. This could allow a better understanding of why students don't complete or reveal obstacles to completion.
5. New business; items for future discussion.