

Minutes of the Graduate Council (GC) for October 10, 2017
2-3pm 1310A Marie Mount Hall

Present: Franke, Fetter, Robertson, Maddux, Besharov, McIver, Hacquard, Lucas, Zambrana, Dougherty, Dawkins, Rabin, Martin, Barber, Steiner, Weeks, Grun, Mirabal, Bakhski, Welch, Cork, Slater,

Staff: Strausser, Long

I. Welcome and Introductions

Everyone in attendance briefly introduced themselves by going around the room.

II. Approval of the minutes

Minutes of the meeting of May 3, 2017 were approved with no emendations.

III. Remarks by Steve Fetter, Interim Dean

The new Interim Dean, Steve Fetter, introduced himself to the group. He discussed his background and time he has been at the University. Steve answered questions from the council.

IV. Updates on GS personnel changes

Jeff Franke introduced Dr. Ryan Long as the Associate Dean of Policies and Robyn Kotzker will handle nomination of graduate faculty. Franke, Fetter and Long can do exemptions and waivers. Please send anything to graddschool.umd.edu and the graduate assistants at the front desk will respond quickly and get them off to the right staff members.

V. Statements of Mutual Expectations (SME) for Administrative Assistants

Last fall we did one for research assistantships and in the spring we did one for teaching assistantships. Now we would like to have one for administrative assistantships. They need to have a clear idea of expectations and their role and duties. Jeff Franke will take the lead and bring it back to GC quickly. Franke asked for volunteers to help with this and will email everyone asking for volunteers.

People asked how are mutual expectations implemented- Franke said that they went out to the Directors of Graduate Studies. Members commented that we do need to a bit of a better campaign work to get them out there. These are guidelines and recommendations, not policies. Right now, they are implemented on a voluntary basis

and tried out in NACS and we got some feedback. Once we get all three out there, we will continue to disseminate these. Many of the Deans are advocates for the SMEs.

VI. Graduate Council Committees

i. PCC (Policy, Curriculum and Course Committee)

We have a number of people on the PCC, but could use a few more. This meets once a month and two weeks before the Senate PCC meeting. A week before the meeting, various proposals are submitted from across campus.

ii. Graduate Outcome Assessment

Franke said that we need to revise this. We escaped the middle states accreditation for this. We need to look at outcomes assessment and PhD outcomes. Zambrana, Lucas and Oded volunteered to help with this.

iii. Competitive Fellowships

Robyn Kotzker oversees this process. It would be helpful to have a committee from the graduate council to have people in the room to represent the graduate school to make sure things stay on track and focused on the fellowship. You would not be a voting member, but you would be a representative of the Graduate Council. The group voiced that the person could help funnel any concerns that come out of the meetings to the Graduate School. Kellie Robertson volunteered for this role.

VII. Acceptance of 3-year undergraduate degrees for admission discussion

We are going to start rolling this out and start accepting 3 year degrees on exceptional basis. We need to be sure to follow the guidelines. We will be tracking the students. The council had the opportunity to voice concerns and questions.

Question: what is the pressure that initiated this review of policy? Franke said that there were a variety of different things that just came together. We haven't changed policy dramatically, but this is one a case by case basis. The key is to following students so we know if this is functioning appropriately.

Concern brought by the Council: The criteria listed here is unfair- the same rules do not apply to international students and domestic students.

We need to be open to other opportunities. Franke will go back to the committee and voice the council's concerns.

VIII. New Business

Grievance committee should have a report should be in November.

Jeffrey Franke adjourned the meeting at 3:01pm.