

Minutes of the Graduate Council Meeting held on October 29, 2013

Present: Chair: Caramello; Members: Bauer, Bruck, Chadya, De La Paz, Delwiche, DeShong, Dugan, Ellis, Eno, Gibson, Howland, Inouye, Joseph, Liu, Macready, Paolisso, Rosenfelt, Roth, Sprinkle, Steele, Tao, Weinstein; Affiliates: Beise, Dietrich; Associate/Assistant Deans: Chen, Franke, Leone, Shayman; Staff: McAdams, Worthington

Excused: Strein

I. Graduate Council Working Groups

Dean Caramello opened the meeting by introducing Councilors Sprinkle and Bauer, who have agreed to chair the Graduate Council working groups reviewing the PhD and Professional Doctorate and TA Training respectively. Members of the PhD and Professional Doctorate committee include Councilors Bruck, Joseph, Paolisso, and Strein. Councilors who would like to volunteer for the TA Training Working Group should contact Associate Dean Shayman directly.

II. Discussion

Councilor Simpson moderated a discussion regarding the future of doctoral programs in the context of changing patterns in career choices for doctoral students and implications for programs and degrees offered.

Guest Debra Weinstein (CMNS) discussed a recent NIH grant proposal for the preparation of STEM doctoral students for careers outside the academy. Dr. Weinstein reviewed topics that programs might consider when addressing the changing career market for their doctoral candidates. These include business or other skills potentially needed for alternative careers, assessment of current professional training initiatives, challenges faced by doctoral candidates in given disciplines, and possible approaches to those challenges.

Councilor Rosenfelt (ARHU) commented that the campus graduate culture should promote cross-disciplinary collaborations to address training opportunities for shared professional development issues such as leadership, business writing, and management. Councilor Rosenfelt indicated that in ARHU, for example, professional development opportunities in policy leadership and in quantitative research methodologies could benefit doctoral students wishing to join government agencies.

Councilor DeShong (CMNS) indicated that over 95% of chemistry doctorates enter industry and suggested that we might want to consider allowing industry professionals to serve on dissertation committees and allowing doctoral candidates to take business management courses. Councilor Eno (CMNS) indicated that physics graduates have also been entering industrial fields and suggested that involving industry professionals in their programs might be appropriate as well.

Councilor Sprinkle (PUAF) added that most doctoral students enter PUAF with a specific career path in mind. The public policy discipline, however, inherently prepares students for a wide variety of career opportunities outside academia.

Councilor Delwiche (CMNS) indicated that doctoral graduates in the life sciences enter both academic and non-academic positions, with laboratory research being the common element. He agreed with others that some training in personnel, finance, business management, leadership, and networking could be valuable for all students.

Councilor Simpson (BSOS) commented that the GS could consider support for professional training programs for students across disciplines. Councilor De La Paz recommended that we review what other doctoral programs across the country are doing to address this issue.

III. Approval of Minutes of Graduate Council Meeting of September 25, 2013

Minutes of the meeting of September 25, 2013 were approved with no emendations.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12 Noon.