

Minutes of the Graduate Council Meeting held on February 20, 2013

Present: Chair: Caramello; Members: Beise, Cabrera, Chen, Delwiche, Dugan, Furman, Gibson, Inoye, Kyle, Lim, Macready, Mather, Newman, Parry-Giles, Popper, Raupp, Rosenfelt, Sprinkle, Tits, Wolniak; Associate Deans: Chen; Staff: Popper, Vorhies, Worthington

I. Approval of the Minutes

Minutes of the December 19, 2012 meeting were approved with no emendations.

II. Discussion Topics

A. Dissertation Defenses for Professional Doctorates

At the Council meeting of December 19, representatives from the College of Education presented a proposal to request changes in the Dissertation Examining Committee for the Doctorate of Education (Ed.D). The changes are intended to help differentiate the Ed.D. from the PhD degree in education, establishing the Ed.D. more clearly as a professional practice degree. Dean Caramello advised the council that this item would be sent to committee for further review and opened a discussion to begin that process.

Councilor Kyle stated that future of PhDs across disciplines is in flux, and that he believes many disciplines will want to differentiate between the traditional PhD Programs and professional degrees. Associate Dean Chen stated that this committee should consider from a broad perspective what the standards are for issuing a doctorate and how we assess if those standards are being met. Councilor Tits recommended that the committee survey the national landscape to see how others institutions are addressing this issue.

Councilor Delwiche expressed considerable concern that proposed changes could negatively affect the integrity of the doctoral degree in general, and stated that caution should be exercised when considering the elimination of the concept of candidacy, a part of the EDUC proposal.

Councilor Parry Giles recommended that the committee looking at this issue examine both the quality of instructors in such professional programs and the comingling of traditional PhD students with professional degree students.

Councilors were invited to email Kathy Worthington at kworthin@umd.edu if they are interested in serving on this working committee.

B. Parental Accommodation for Graduate Assistants

At the Council meeting of December 19, Councilors supported the proposed Parental Accommodation policy in principle but requested a clearer sense of funding "at local levels," in the proposed Parental Accommodation Policy (see attachment 1), expressing concern that this could be an unfunded mandate affecting departments and PIs.

In the interim, Dean Caramello presented this issue to the Council of Deans, who supported the following clarification of Issue B of the proposed Parental Accommodation policy:

"The deans have agreed that the colleges will cover the cost of parental accommodation for the coming year, possibly asking for cost-shares from departments but not asking for them from PIs. After a year, we will review expenditures and revisit the funding issue if necessary."

A brief discussion ensued regarding establishment of a central fund to cover parental accommodation costs. Councilor Delwiche had expressed that a central fund would remove the unpredictability of funding.

Dean Caramello reported that the frequency of parental accommodation has been minimal and all documented requests have been accommodated. The cost is approximately \$3,000 per accommodation. The Graduate School will continue to track parental accommodation statistics for further evaluation by the Graduate Council and the Council of Deans.

Councilor Sprinkle moved to approve Recommendation A and B with the Deans' clarification language. Councilor Cabrera seconded the motion. The motion passed 14 – 0.

C. Teaching Assistant Training

Dean Caramello indicated that the Graduate Assistant Advisory Committee (GAAC) had raised the issue of TA training at its recent meeting with the Provost, VP for Administrative Affairs, and Dean of the GS. The topic is an important one, and the Provost has taken considerable interest in it. Dean Caramello provided an overview from a survey of programs taken in 2010 of TA Training Initiatives on campus, and informed the Council that a working group will be established to review existing TA training and initiatives at UMD and peer institutions with the goal of developing training initiatives that can be implemented at campus, college, and department levels.

Councilor Cabrera recommended that GAAC members be invited to provide input to the working group. Councilor Dugan added that the quality of undergraduate courses is at stake, so input from undergraduate directors should be sought by the working group as well. Councilor Macready added that the working group should include persons with the expertise to evaluate practices across campus and best practices nationally.

Councilors were instructed to email Kathy Worthington at kworthin@umd.edu if they are interested in serving on this working group.

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