



Graduate Council Meeting Notes

Monday, 3/14/2022

12-1:30 pm

Zoom

ATTENDEES: Betsy Beise, Byung-Eun Kim, Lindsey May, GerShun Avilez, Alexander Williams, Amna Kirmani, Dave Waguespack, Christina Getrich, John Shea, Patrick Wohlfarth, Autumn Perkey, Steve Mount, Doug Julin, Amy Mullin, Jeffrey Shultz, Paul Gold, James Duncan, Lorae Bonamy-Lohve, Brooke Fisher Liu, Tamara Allard, Annie Rappeport, Robert Sprinkle, Edmond Shenassa, Paul Turner.

Graduate School Staff: Amanda Strausser, Marion D'Aurora, Linda Macri, Patty Woodwell, Robyn Kotzker, Wendy Koch, Teddy Wu, Blessing Enekwe, Christopher Perez, Simone Warrick-Bell, Waqeelat Gaji, Fan Tsao, Susan Martin, Spencer Benson

AGENDA

1. Welcome Evelyn Cooper, the Graduate School's new Assistant Dean and Chief of Operations
2. Approve [February 14, 2022](#) meeting minutes
 - a. Minutes approved with no corrections.
3. Updates and announcements
 - a. New Associate Dean, [Jason Farman](#)
 - Jason will begin in early summer. Stay tuned for a final date.
 - Brooke Liu will be returning to her department of Communication.
 - b. April meeting will remain virtual.
4. Proposed policy revision: [Change in status or program policy](#)
 - a. Approved unanimously
 - b. [List](#) of doctoral-only graduate programs
 - There are 83 doctoral programs. Half of 13 doctoral programs without a master's are in progress creating a master's program.
 - c. The existing policy had made this policy option of programs, not all programs offered this option.
 - d. Policy being suggested for students who after being here for 3, 4, or more years, some left with no credentials. Other programs did offer a master's. The goal is to be more directive in offering the master's option.
 - e. If programs do not have a master's option, they are not required to provide one but are encouraged.
 - f. The student still has to earn the meet degree requirements. The students would have a year to follow an exit path to earn the degree.
 - g. Questions/Discussion



- Failing to complete doctoral requirements is not the only reason individuals may leave the doctoral program - not only failure mindset be aware of language.
 - Do some doctoral programs require masters for entry into the program?
 1. Some do, but the transition plan can include earning a certificate. The transition plan does not have to include earning a master's degree as the final option.
 - Which programs are creating master's plan coming program?
 1. All others except for Journalism are considering the master's/certificate option.
 - Is there a possibility for existing programs to partner with already established master's programs?
 1. A student still has to meet the requirements of Masters's in other departments and would be more of a case-by-case basis.
 - For programs that do have Ph.D. and do not have a master's, are there arguments against having this new option?
 1. There is concern that students who are really seeking a master's but apply to Ph.D. for the funding then exit after completing the Master's.
 - Is the financial model for the master's program the same as the doctoral program for the program?
 1. Separate issue and left to the discretion of the department.
 - This is a potential issue for international students who could lose their visa status if they leave their doctoral program. Funding will be a separate model.
5. [Proposed requirement](#) to have all graduate programs to have guidelines and statement of expectations for faculty mentoring of graduate students and thesis and dissertation research (two examples from BSOS [here](#)).
- a. Approved by the Council: 15 Approved; 2 Abstain;
 - b. Specifically in the context of graduate student research and scholarship.
 - c. Questions/Discussion
 - This seems a bit high level and how do we uphold these values? How do we ensure that each mentor is actually following these guidelines?
 1. These expectations are the first step. If a student believed that their advisor was not living up to those expectations, then this would be the basis for further discussion.
 - How will we evaluate each program?
 1. Having the programs create the guidelines allows for the program to create their own evaluation processes.
 2. No formal approval process, rather reviewed by the graduate school to provide feedback/recommendations.
 3. Submit by October 15th to the Associate Dean of Graduate Education of each college and the GS and feedback will be received by December 15th. Final documents January 15.
 - Timeline - Anthropology created their guidelines within one semester.
 - d. Dean Fetter welcomed councilors to provide comments to the Google Doc in the next 5 business days.



6. Potential change to Dean's Fellowship program for the Fall 2023 admissions cycle
 - Summary of change:
 1. Currently, the GS holds funding for the program for each year. With new proposals, programs will have access to these funds and will be responsible for future year allocations. This will allow departments freedom to give awards at any amount.
 - b. Discussion Questions:
 - Should the minimum DF award be \$5,000?
 - Should the fixed DF amounts be replaced with flexibility above the minimum? If so, should the increment be \$500 or \$1000?
 - Should we allow carry-forward of unused DF funds? What minimum carry-forward would allow programs to use DFs primarily for recruiting, rather than current students?
 - If we allow carry-forward, we will eliminate the use of current-year funds for future-year awards. Can colleges or programs manage multi-year commitments using future-year allocations?
 - c. Questions/Discussion
 - Will departments holding the funding create hesitancy in programs making offers?
 - a. The offer should look the same for the student, but rather the responsibility falls to the program for financial management.
 - d. . Concerns
 - There are fund balance concerns and the reliability of these funds from year to year.
 - Also, concerns about the limited flexibility of the DF and programs should be able to do with it what they need to do.

GSG items and future discussion

- Work caps. The Graduate School has a policy about work maximums. We do allow overload assignments but on a case-by-case basis.
- Share position papers about different student fees that graduate students pay at UMD.

Dean Fetter adjourned the meeting at 1:23 pm.

The next Graduate Council meeting will take place **Apr 21, 2022** from 11:00-12:30 via [Zoom](#).

These minutes were unanimously approved at the 3/14/22 Graduate Council Meeting.