



## Graduate Council Meeting Notes

Monday, October 18, 2021

10-11:30

Zoom

### ATTENDEES

Allard, Avilez, Biswas, Cohen, Dasgupta, Duncan, Elby, Ewing, Fetter, Fisher Liu, Getrich, Gold, Julin, Kim, Kirmani, Lawley, Mount, Moeller, Mullin, Nessian, Perkey, Rappeport, Roth, Shea, Shenassa, Sprinkle, Tan, Waguespack, Williams

Angela Ambrosi, Amanda Strausser, Teddy Wu, Linda Macri, Barbara Rhine, Megan VanSon, Susan Martin, Anna O'Connell

### AGENDA

1. Welcome Bill Powers and Fan Tsao! Contact both at [gs-ad@umd.edu](mailto:gs-ad@umd.edu).
2. Approve 9/17 meeting minutes
  - a. Minutes approved unanimously without comment.
3. Updates and announcements
  - a. [Graduate School annual report](#)
  - b. gradSERU results now available on reports.umd.edu
    - Dean Fetter encourages each department to look at their individual reports.
  - c. Trends in research funding for graduate students
    - Sponsored research funding has been increasing the past 4 years.
      1. There has been a 10% increase in research expenditures in FY21 compared to FY20.
      2. There has been an 18% increase in the average cost of a GS in FY21.
  - d. Search for Graduate School Assistant Dean and Chief of Operations
    - One of Bill and Fan's primary responsibilities is finding a new Graduate School Assistant Dean and Chief of Operations.
    - First it will be an internal search only and is aiming to have the search committee's work wrapped up by November.
    - Bill asks the council to think who might make a good candidate for the position and to encourage them to apply. We will send out the job listing (and description) when it is live to the Graduate Council and other pertinent groups.
      1. They encourage you to let Bill know about potential candidates and he will approach them, approach them yourselves or think about what networks you could share the posting with.
      2. Bill notes that diversity will be an important part of the search and they hope to further diversify the graduate school leadership.



- e. Report of vote on [Procedures for the Oral Dissertation Examination](#)
    - Vote was requested via an email conducted through and all voted in favor of the change.
    - Clarify that the student must pass the written and oral portion of the defense.
    - The changes are in the Catalog for Capstone, Masters and Doctoral.
  - f. Updated statement of mutual expectations template ([Word doc](#), [Google doc](#)) and posted on the GS website: [gradschool.umd.edu/forms](https://gradschool.umd.edu/forms)
    - Has not been updated since August of 2020, created links for co-authorship and current remote policies.
      1. Some colleges and departments require the completion of an SME but the Graduate School does not.
4. Strategic priorities for doctoral education: presentation and discussion
- a. There is no specific committee for graduate education for the Universities Strategic Planning .
  - b. The Provost and President identified having the goals of shorter time to degree and higher completion rates.
  - c. One of the main strategic priorities for doctoral education is to train the next generation of researchers and scholars.
    - Increase the diversity of students as there has been little progress over the last 25 years despite being some of the top degree providers of Black and URM PhDs.
    - Career and professional development should acknowledge that the fraction of PhDs going to academic careers is steadily declining .
    - Completion: compared to AAU publics we are average on 4-6 year completion rates but in the bottom quarter in 8-10 competition rate and we should aspire to significantly increase these rates.
    - We also have a long time to degree when compared to peers (1 semester longer than average) and the average time to degree has remained stagnant for the past 20 years.
      1. Suggests more funding so that students don't have to seek other employment therefore possibly delaying their degree.
    - Funding is key to both recruiting students, increasing completion and decreasing TTD.
      1. UMD lags behind peers as it has fewer years of support, less fellowship support and lower stipend levels when adjusted for CoL.
      2. An immediate goal is restoring DF funding to FY05 level of 400 full time fellowships at a competitive stipend.
    - Members raised the points that we need to account for the bimodal population which includes those who have full time jobs like those that work at NIST, NASA, etc.



5. New business and topics for future discussion
6. Next meeting: Friday, November 19 from 12-1:30
  - a. We will soon send out a doodle to schedule GC meetings for spring 2022

Meeting was adjourned at 11:28 AM by Dean Fetter

***These minutes were unanimously approved at the 11/19/21 Graduate Council Meeting.***