

## Minutes of the Graduate Council (GC) for November 27, 2018

*12-1:30pm in the Maryland Room, Marie Mount Hall*

Present: Franke, Fetter, Long, Robertson, Rappeport, Dougherty, Mclver, Lu, Sayer, Grun, Xie, Green, Peng, Klauda, Washington, Rabenhorst,

Staff: Strausser

- I. Welcome
  - a. The meeting began with a welcome by Dean Fetter at 12:05pm. This is the last meeting of the Graduate Council for the fall 2018 semester.
- II. Approval of the minutes for October 16, 2018 meeting
  - a. The meeting minutes had changes and were approved by the group. Those changes have been made and the notes will be posted on the Graduate School website.
- III. Presentation by Graduate Student Government (GSG)
  - a. Annie Rappeport, President of GSG presented. Please feel free to always email her at [gsg-president@umd.edu](mailto:gsg-president@umd.edu).
  - b. GSG is one piece of the shared governance on campus. They are by graduate students, for graduate students. They represent all ~10,500 graduate students on campus. They are working with a very diverse graduate student body on campus.
  - c. GSG participates in the review of student fees. Some student fees support then GSG budget. They advocate for graduate student fees on campus.
  - d. They are the voice and representation on campus. They work to keep constituents informed. They do this in a variety of ways, including assemblies and legislation. They also work with many units on campus including, but not limited to, Libraries, DOTS, Student Affairs, the Provost, the President, etc.
  - e. We discussed ways to get students involved in Graduate Student Government. Annie shared some tips with how faculty can get students involved. If you have any questions or concerns, please email [gsg-president@umd.edu](mailto:gsg-president@umd.edu).
  - f. GRAD is coming up on April 3, 2019. It is the GSG flagship event where the whole graduate community can come together to appreciate and honor graduate student research and work. Watch out for more information about GRAD. Please encourage your students to submit abstracts and research to the competition. This event also partners with The Graduate School to include the 3MT into GRAD. For more information about 3MT go here: <https://gradschool.umd.edu/funding/student-fellowships-awards/umd-three-minute-thesis-competition>
- IV. Discussion Topics

- a. Revisions to Leave of Absence Policy and process
  - i. There have been changes to the LOA policy and we wanted to get Graduate Councilors feedback about the policy.
  - ii. One of the major changes is to ensure that students are well-equipped to return to campus. We want to make sure the student is ready and able to come back to the same environment that they were in before. This policy now requires a medical note to return to their program. The policy now provides a mechanism to make sure the students are fully ready to return to their studies.
  - iii. There are also several new forms, which were distributed to councilors.
  - iv. An important note about LOA for health reasons is that when students take LOA, students no longer have access to the health center and other campus resources. Students can request certain access to some resources.
  - v. This is not policy yet, we are trying to get feedback from campus stakeholders to understand the scenarios that are happening on campus. We want to make sure the policy is the most helpful to students. We will return to reviewing this policy in the Spring semester.

V. New Business

- a. The Graduate School is celebrating our Centennial. On March 27<sup>th</sup> we are doing a big event, so stay tuned for more information.
- b. Dean Fetter brought up English proficiency for admissions. We went to this page: <https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency-requirements> to review current requirements.
  - i. These requirements were put into place since 2008/2009. The sub scores have been revised since.
  - ii. Some units on campus would like greater flexibility and would like them to be revised in some way.
  - iii. There would be higher scores required for graduate teaching assistants.
  - iv. Dean Fetter wanted to discuss this with Graduate Council because they set all academic graduate policy.
  - v. Dean Fetter opened this up for discussion to better understand what departments and colleges have been experiencing with their admissions.
  - vi. We also discussed Voxy as an option for English language assistance. More information about Voxy is here: <https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/application-process/after-you-are-admitted/students-english-provision> This is a cost effective way to encourage students to improve their English proficiency. If you have any questions about Voxy, please contact The Graduate School ([gradschool@umd.edu](mailto:gradschool@umd.edu)).
  - vii. A councilor asked for departments to have some flexibility with the scores. The councilor requested that there be room for exceptions.

- c. Another topic on our agenda for the spring semester is Academic Integrity. Our current policy is geared towards research doctoral degree, so we will be coming to talk about options for professional programs. The UMD Senate has asked us to address this issue, so we will be covering this in the spring.
  - d. 899 credits- Councilors asked the GS to review the data and this will be taken up in the spring semester. We will look at options for 899.
    - i. Dean Fetter asked for alternates and they councilors said that having a flat structure would be better. We will look at different options and return to this conversation too. If you have any ideas, questions or concerns, please email us.
- VI. Adjourn
- a. The next meeting is Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup> from 11-12:30 in the Maryland Room.
  - b. The meeting was adjourned at 1:22.