



Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 17, 2023, 1:00-2:30 pm

[Zoom](#)

ATTENDEES: Steve Fetter, Jason Farman, Evelyn Cooper, Alexander Williams, Andrew Elby, Betsy Beise, Byoung-Eun Kim, David Van Horn, Debabrata Biswas, Douglas Julin, Edmond Shenassa, Eun Kyoung Choe, Henry Gittens, Jason Rudy, Jeffrey Shultz, Joey Haavik, L. Jen Shaffer, Laura Demaira, Lauren Cain, Lindsey May, Lorae Bomamy-Love, Nicole Menkart, Patrick Wohlfarth, Paul C. Turner, Paul Gold, Paulo Prochno, Rob Wells, Stephen Mount, Yueming Qui (29)

GS Staff: Robyn Kotzker, Sparkle Lonesome, Blessing Enekewe, Brent Hernandez, Patty Woodwell, Fan Tsao, Heather Kissinger, Maria Palmeira, Linda Macri, Marion D'Aurora, Simone Warrick Bell, Yi Hao, Teddy Wu (13)

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Approve [March 15, 2023, Graduate Council](#) meeting minutes
 - a. Approved with no recommended changes.
3. Updates and announcements
 - a. Thank you to outgoing Graduate Council members:
 - AGNR: Byung-Eun Kim
 - ARCH: Lindsay May
 - ARHU: Laura DeMaria, Alexander Williams
 - BSOS: Patrick Wohlfarth
 - CMNS: Doug Julin
 - EDUC: Andrew Elby, Paul Gold
 - ENGR: Abhijit Dasgupta
 - SPHL: Paul Turner
 - Joey Haavik, Lizzie Irlbacher, Jiannan Xu, Lauren Cain, Peijian Ding
 - b. Election of new members to Graduate Council
 - Deans have been contacted for replacement members.
 - c. [Doctoral Career Pathways Conference](#), May 3-5
 - Virtual and In-person workshops.
 - d. gradSERU closed with 30.2%; results available in early May.
 - Reports.umd.edu when available
 - e. Statements of expectations for faculty mentoring and Departmental Award for Graduate Mentorship.
 - Launching a new award for departmental mentorship.



- We will be reaching out to departments soon.
 - f. Fellowship update: Flagship (27/70), President's (16/40), McNair (2/4/13), Wylie (70)
 - Largest amount of flagship and presidents fellowship acceptances.
 - Largest amount of McNair offers.
 - g. Fall 2023 exceptional recruitment funds: 36 requests for \$235k
 - Last year was the most diverse Phd entering class ever.
 - h. [FY24 minimum GA stipends](#)
 - 2% COLA on July 1st.
 - Minimum stipend increased by 5.4%.
 - i. Current landscape for career and professional development: Yi Hao, Program Director for Career and Professional Development
 - Survey - Will be sent to DGS/CGS by the end of the month.
 1. 10 Questions about doctoral employment trends, mentoring, career services, and integration into curriculum.
 2. Data will be analyzed during summer and results will be presented next semester.
 - j. [3MT Competition](#) - April 19, 1-3 PM, Charles Carrol Room
 - 19 Students presenting.
 - Will also be streamed on [youtube](#).
 - k. New waiver requirement for health insurance
 - Graduate students are required to have health insurance, but we don't enforce it using the waiver process and automatic billing (like they do for undergraduates)
 - By using a similar process (waiver process) for graduate students then health insurance costs could be kept down.
 - Implemented next year (Fall 2023)
 - Please ensure all current and incoming students are aware.
 - GSG plans to potentially hold town halls in the future
 - l. International student fee.
 - Students have been asking for transparency and the GS is working on putting something together.
4. Policies for review and comment
- a. [Policy on Consensual Relationships Between Faculty and Students](#)
 - "This Policy applies to all Faculty...as well as staff and graduate assistants with Educational or Supervisory Authority over Students."
 - Incorporate into orientations, handbooks, and the Graduate Catalog under [Policies for Graduate Assistantships](#)
 1. Is not limited to undergraduates. Students include supervisory roles over graduate students as well.



- b. Grievance policies and procedures for each college (language from [Graduate Catalog](#))
 - “These conflicts should be ideally addressed first by the Director of Graduate Studies (or equivalent) and then by the Department Chair (or equivalent) according to the process ~~and appropriate remedies and disciplinary actions set by the grievance policy~~ of the college or school.”
 - There is not a collegiate level policy and the procedures should be campus-wide.
- c. [Emeritus faculty serving as a Dean’s Representative](#) - update with recommendations from the Emeritus Steering Committee
 - The practice within the graduate school was emeritus could serve as a dean’s representative for two years only.
 - The Emeritus Faculty Steering committee believes that the timeframe should be five years instead of two so they can continue working with doctoral students before they retire.
 1. Discussion:
 - a. What is the rationale for students want a emeriti faculty to be a dean’s representative instead of just serving on a chair or being on the committee
 - i. Example: doctoral student was working w/ emeritus faculty in a different unit and was an expert in the field.
 - ii. Comment: In biological sciences that example is very common.
 - b. Exceptions to the two year rule can be made.
 - c. Comment: It’s expected that the deans rep be a full participant in the committee for some departments, so this may require finding a sixth member.
 2. Vote: Should we increase the number of years emeriti faculty can be the dean’s rep from 2 years to 5 years?
 - a. Yes: 91%
 - b. No: 5%
 - c. Abstain: 4%
- d. Preparing for Supreme Court decision on affirmative action in admissions
 - Policy requiring training, rubric for admissions committees?
 - Currently the use of race and ethnicity plays a role in the admissions process. Part of a holistic process for undergraduates, while graduate school is a centralized process. (Current)
 - If this is not upheld, training may be required for staff at the undergraduate level.
 1. A rubric will allow for a holistic process and evaluation. A metric will be required as well.



- a. Rubric can be different for every department.
 - i. Comment: Concern over the amount of work.
 - Forming a subcommittee of the graduate council to review the rubrics to ensure they represent a holistic process?
 - If The Supreme Course does not uphold it, we will have the issue of ensuring diversity of incoming students.
5. New Business
 - a. Betsy Beise: Feasibility a short break in the fall semester not around thanksgiving? Consequences of adding a two day break in late october or near indigenous peoples day? Please reach ot to Betsy is you have any concerns about logistics for your departments or students.
 - ADD EMAIL 😊
6. Suggested Topics for Next Year?