

February 10, 2015 Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council

Members Present: J. Albert, D. Baker, D. Bellar, J. Davis-McElligatt, T. De Nardo, W. Ferguson, S. France, D. Harrington, J. Heels, H. Hurst, D. Linton, A. Magidin, S. McInerney, D. Olivier, S. Ritchey, D. Wadsworth, M. Farmer-Kaiser (ex-officio member)

Members Absent: P. Auter, C. Briggs, R. Cheek, G. Gjertson, R. Hernandez, A. Khattab, A. Lakhotia, A. Loewy, K. Smith, M. Wright

The meeting was called to order by D. Linton at 2:11 p.m.

Announcements:

The Council voted to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2014 meeting.

The list of degree candidates was presented and accepted by the Council.

An updated list of the Graduate Council Standing Committees Membership was provided and accepted by the Council.

Committee Reports:

Student Appeals Committee: Report provided by Shawn Thibodeaux on behalf of the Student Appeals Committee Chair, P. Robert Viguerie, not present. The Student Appeals Committee considered 60 student appeals for the Spring 2015 semester. 49 were approved, 9 were denied, and 2 were deferred due to insufficient documentation. The report was accepted by the Graduate Council.

Curriculum Committee: Report prepared and submitted by S. Ritchey. The report was accepted by the Graduate Council.

Fellowship Committee: No report.

Graduate Faculty Membership Committee: No report.

Old Business:

The discussion from the November 11 and December 16 Graduate Council meetings continued regarding the creation of a University committee to analyze and evaluate graduate student retention and engagement at the University. Discussion at this meeting centered on membership of this entity and the ratio of graduate coordinators to graduate faculty as well as administrative personnel. All agreed that this entity needed to deal with issues that affect graduate students University-wide and not just program-specific issues. D. Bellar suggested that this entity be constructed as an investigatory body that could bring its data and findings to the Graduate Council, which is a representative University group. M. Farmer-Kaiser echoed D. Bellar, suggesting that this entity will report to the Graduate Council, thus stemming from the Graduate

Council's authority as the governing and policy-making body for graduate education. Determining that the monthly meeting of the Graduate Council would not provide sufficient time to completely define the Graduate Student Retention entity, a motion was made to form an ad hoc committee that would construct a document detailing the mission, charge, and makeup of this entity. Volunteers included David Bellar, David Baker, Helen Hurst, and Diane Olivier. Motion seconded and passed.

The Graduate Council continued its review of the preliminary revisions from the ad hoc committee to the Graduate Council Handbook and Faculty Handbook. D. Harrington, chair of that committee, reviewed areas of discussion in the revisions, seeking the Council's input. Motion made to clarify language in the Graduate Council Handbook, confirming that the Dean of the Graduate School has voting privileges and, as a member, counts toward determining quorum. Motion seconded and passed. Discussion turned to eligibility of academic deans, associate deans, and assistant deans to serve as members of the Council. Currently, academic deans are not eligible for membership on the Council but rather have direct representation through the privilege of appointing one member to represent their colleges (to serve alongside the two elected members from each college); debate centered on whether associate and assistant deans were regarded as faculty or administration, their continued ability to teach and direct graduate students, and whether they would be an independent voice on the Council. Motion made to amend the current Graduate Council Handbook wording, "Academic deans shall not be eligible for membership on the Graduate Council," to read, "Academic deans, including associate and assistant deans, shall not be eligible for membership on the Graduate Council." Motion seconded and passed. Motion made to reaffirm and specify that department heads and school directors continue to be eligible to serve on the Graduate Council. Motion seconded and passed. Though voted on at the December 16, 2014 Council meeting, the Council discussed further the definition of quorum. Motion made to amend the definition of quorum to be 50% of Council membership plus one, removing the clause stipulating that one member of each college must be present. Motion seconded and passed. A. Magidin noted an issue with the current wording in the Graduate Council handbook regarding the replacement of Council members who are appointed (whether by the academic deans, the Dean of the Graduate School, and the GSO). Motion made to amend the current wording to read: "Replacement of a faculty member who was appointed by an academic college shall be replaced by the dean of that academic college. Replacement of an appointed faculty or student member who was appointed by the Dean of the Graduate School shall be replaced by the Dean of the Graduate School. Members who were removed may not be immediately reappointed." Motion seconded and passed. Motion made to not allow proxy voting for absent Council members. Motion seconded and passed. Motion made to restrict the faculty membership of Graduate Council Standing Committees to full-time graduate faculty members. Motion seconded and passed. Motion made to clarify wording for Committee appointment terms to read, "Committee members are appointed to a term that corresponds with the academic year." Motion seconded and passed. The Council tabled the remainder of the revisions to the Graduate Council Standing Committees descriptions.

New Business:

D. Linton requested that any feedback, comments, or recommendations to the University Strategic Planning Committee Report be submitted for discussion at the March Graduate Council Meeting in order to make a collective response to the Planning Committee.

The Graduate Council considered a graduate student appeal for readmission into the Graduate School. Motion made to deny the appeal. Motion seconded and passed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:36pm.