

September 9, 2014 Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council

Members Present: J. Albert, P. Auter, D. Baker, D. Bellar, C. Briggs, J. Davis-McElligatt, William Ferguson, S. France, D. Harrington, R. Hernandez, H. Hurst, A. Khattab, D. Linton, A. Magidin, S. McNerny, D. Olivier, S. Ritchey, K. Smith, D. Wadsworth, M. Wright, T. De Nardo, B. Hill, M. Farmer-Kaiser (ex-officio member)

Guest Speakers: James Henderson, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Peter Sheppard, Graduate Dean Search Committee Co-Chair

1. Call to order by D. Linton at 2:06 p.m.
2. Motion made to move guest speakers forward on the agenda. Motion seconded and passed.
3. Announcements:
 - A. Peter Sheppard, Co-Chair of the Dean of the Graduate School Search Committee, provided updates on the search for the new Dean of the Graduate School. 43 applications for the position were received between May 15 to August 15 with two rounds of review and elimination being carried out by the Search Committee. Ultimately, the Search Committee settled on 8 semi-finalists to be interviewed via Skype on September 26 and 29, 2014. Following those interviews, three finalists will be selected for on-campus interviews, where the Graduate Council will be afforded an opportunity to meet the finalists. P. Sheppard thanked the Council for their time and left the meeting.
 - B. James Henderson, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, welcomed the members of the Graduate Council, both new and returning, and thanked the Council members for their willingness to assist the University. J. Henderson addressed his concerns for growing graduate enrollment and program offers at the University to levels equal to the University's peer institutions. Possibilities for travel funds, prioritized by Graduate Faculty status, was also discussed.
 - C. The list of degree candidates was presented and accepted with the correction of moving two students from Master's in Education to Master's of Arts in Teaching.
4. Unanimous approval of the May 13, 2014 meeting minutes.
5. Old Business:
 - A. The Council reviewed the recently revised Graduate Faculty Policy and two issues therein that J. Henderson requested additional consideration on, one of which being automatic level two Graduate Faculty status for new faculty hires who recently received the terminal degree. S. France and Lakhotia both noted that J. Henderson's suggestion to restrict newly-finished Ph.D. hires from directing dissertations would be

a difficult imposition for the Biology and CACS Departments while J. Davis-McCelligatt stated that in some departments, like her own, there are few faculty with certain specific expertise, leaving students with few options as dissertation directors. A. Magidin stated that the issue lie with the automatic appointment of new faculty hires with their terminal degree to level two Graduate Faculty status, noting that the Graduate Faculty policy would allow for those new hires to apply for level two Graduate Faculty status within their first three years of appointment. M. Wright argued that mentoring ability should be gaged during the interview process but addressed the difficulty in assessing mentorship abilities. The Graduate Council also discussed the Graduate Faculty policy revision that allowed for two levels of Graduate Faculty status. Mary Farmer-Kaiser noted that that policy revision was carried out by the former Provost, with J. Henderson stating that the policy was something that could certainly be revised if need be. J. Henderson thank the Council for their time and left the meeting.

6. Committee reports:

- A. Student Appeals: Report prepared by Robert Viguerie, not present, and submitted. The August 22, 2014 Student Appeals Committee meeting reviewed 33 appeal request with the Committee approving 27 and denying 6. The report was accepted by the Graduate Council.
- B. Curriculum: Report prepared and submitted by S. Ritchey. The report was accepted by the Graduate Council.
- C. Fellowships: No report.
- D. Graduate Faculty: No report.

7. Meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.