

**The University of Akron  
Minutes of Graduate Council  
March 28, 2016**

The Graduate Council met on Monday, March 28, 2016, in the Student Union, Room 314. Dean Chand Midha presided. Present were Charles Beneke, Dr. Amanda Booher, Dr. John Goodell, Dr. Qetler Jensrud, Dr. Nidaa Makki, Dr. Shivakumar Sastry, Dr. Harvey Sterns, Lauri Thorpe, Dr. Margaret Tung, Dr. Nicole Zacharia, and Dr. Baomei Zhao.

GC Members Absent with Notice: Dr. Philip Allen, Dr. Ronald Otterstetter, Dr. Martha Santos, Dr. Julia Spiker, and Dr. Anne Wiley

GC Members Absent: Dr. Judit Puskas and Dr. Andrew Thomas

**Call to Order**

Dean Midha called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

**Roll Call**

Heather Blake recorded the attendance of those present.

**Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Sterns made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2016 meeting.

Dr. Jensrud seconded the motion.

Minutes of the February 22 meeting were approved without dissent.

**Remarks – Dean Midha**

Dean Midha stated that the ad hoc committee formed at the last meeting has been working on the development of a strategic plan for the Graduate School. Members of the committee are Dr. Allen, Professor Beneke, and Dr. Sastry.

**Remarks – Charles Beneke**

Professor Beneke shared the following:

- The Graduate Bulletin, which is currently published in a pdf format, will be transitioning to a web-based format.
- The Graduate School English Language Proficiency standards (79 internet-based TOEFL and 6.5 IELTS) are in line with those of our sister institutions.
- New students should not be contacted until confirmation has been received from Graduate Admissions that the students have been admitted.
- Graduate assistants hired as instructional support should not be enrolled in the course(s) for which they are providing instructional support.

**Committee Reports**

Curriculum Committee – Dr. Jensrud presented a log of 36 proposals reviewed and approved by the committee: A&S-BIOL-16-16833, A&S-GEOSCIENCE-16-16806, BUS-FINAN-16-16717, BUS-MANGT-16-17198, BUS-MANGT-16-17201, BUS-MANGT-16-17204, BUS-MANGT-16-17210, BUS-MANGT-16-17221, EDUC-CURR-15-13206, EDUC-CURR-15-16067, EDUC-CURR-15-16070, EDUC-CURR-15-16071, EDUC-CURR-15-16072, EDUC-CURR-15-16073, EDUC-CURR-15-16074, EDUC-CURR-15-16075, EDUC-CURR-15-16076, EDUC-CURR-15-16077, EDUC-CURR-15-16078, EDUC-CURR-15-16079, EDUC-CURR-15-16080, EDUC-CURR-15-16081, ENGR-BIOMED-14-10115, CHP-NURIN-15-15012, CHP-SPLANG-15-16336, POLY-PENGR-16-17344, POLY-PENGR-16-17405, POLY-PENGR-16-17471, POLY-PSCI-16-17083, POLY-PSCI-16-17084, POLY-PSCI-16-17446, POLY-PSCI-16-17447, POLY-PSCI-16-17448, POLY-PSCI-16-17449, POLY-PSCI-16-17458, and POLY-PSCI-16-17459. Approved by Council.

Graduate Faculty Membership Committee – Dr. Makki presented a log of 27 graduate faculty applications as reviewed by the committee. Twenty-six of the graduate faculty applications were approved. One graduate faculty application was denied, because the publications listed on the applicant’s vita were outside of the last five years. The following were approved by Council.

Randall J. Mitchell	Aliaksei Boika	Sailaja Paruchuri	Rex D. Ramsier
Robert Pope	Wei Zhang	William Thelin	Michael J. Levin
James Diefendorff	David B. Cohen	James Steiger	Ronald Otterstetter
Sean Cai	Marnie M. Saunders	Stephen Z.D. Cheng	William J. Landis
Toshikazu Miyoshi	George R. Newkome	Mesfin Tsige	Chrys Wesdemiotis
Bhanu Balasubramnian	Suzanne Gradisher	Matthew A. Wyszynski	Maria Adamowicz-Hariasz
Kathryn Feltey	Rebecca J. Erickson		

### **Graduate School Strategic Plan Discussion**

Dr. Sastry went over the draft strategic plan developed by the ad hoc committee. The draft included strategic initiatives pertaining to students, graduate programs, and faculty. This strategic plan identified a specific list of initiatives that the Graduate Council as a whole agreed to discuss to improve graduate education at The University of Akron. Over the coming year, sub-committees will be formed to develop action plans related to achieving these initiatives. Dean Midha emphasized that in addition to identifying the problems that confront graduate education, members of the Graduate Council can offer significant help in identifying potential solutions to the problems that can help the University to achieve the objectives of the specific initiatives that have been identified in the strategic plan. The Graduate Council discussed that any recommendations of the sub-committees would be discussed by the Graduate Council and voted on to approve/disapprove the recommendations.

Dr. Sastry made a motion to endorse the points presented in the draft strategic plan. The initiatives identified in the proposed plan were endorsed unanimously by all the members present and the motion carried. The Graduate Council adopted the strategic plan.

Professor Beneke mentioned to Council members that any additional thoughts and suggestions to improve the initiatives can be sent to him, and these ideas can also be considered by the sub-committees when the work on developing recommendations.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shivakumar Sastry  
Secretary