

**The University of Akron
Minutes of Graduate Council
December 8, 2014**

The Graduate Council met on Monday, December 8, 2014, in the Student Union, Room 314. R. Ramsier presided. Present were P. Allen, A. Booher, J. Goodell, M. Graham, Q. Jensrud, A. Joy, N. Makki, R. Otterstetter, J. Spiker, and B. Zhao.

Guests in attendance: H. Blake and M. Tausig

GC Members Absent with Notice: F. Moore, J. Puskas, H. Sterns, P. Thomson, and R. Willits

GC Members Absent: S. Blessing and A. Thomas

Call to Order

R. Ramsier called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

Roll Call

H. Blake recorded the attendance of those present.

Approval of Minutes

Q. Jensrud made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 24, 2014 meeting.

J. Goodell seconded the motion.

Minutes of the November 24 meeting were approved without dissent.

Committee Reports and Referrals

Curriculum Committee – J. Goodell referred to the log of five proposals reviewed and approved by the committee: A&S-ECON-14-11565, A&S-POLSC-14-11027, A&S-POLSC-14-11028, A&S-POLSC-14-11029, and BUS-MANGT-14-11029. Approved by Council.

Graduate Faculty Membership Committee – N. Makki presented a log of nine graduate faculty applications as reviewed by the committee. The committee found no issues with any of the applications and rendered unanimous approval. Approved by Council.

Margaret Tung

Philathia Bolton

John Roncone

Zhe Jerry Luo

Nicholas G. Garafolo

Chang Ye

Yalin Dong

Kwek-Tze Tan

Teena Jennings-Rentenaar

Student Policy Committee – R. Otterstetter provided a report, stating that the committee has finalized the survey to be sent to all academic departments to gather information on how TOEFL is used in admission decisions, what English competency issues are experienced with international graduate students, and whether departments would be supportive of on-campus programs to help with English competency. This report has been put into an electronic format. It will be sent out at the beginning of the spring semester. The committee is also currently working on a proposed rule related to family members serving on a student's thesis or dissertation committee. The committee plans to present recommendations in January for Graduate Council's consideration.

Suggestions from Graduate School for increased efficiency

R. Ramsier stated that he has received a few suggestions from Graduate School staff about which he would like input from Graduate Council.

- Consider providing graduate assistantship funding for a fixed period of time, two years for master's students, and four years for doctoral students. The University Rule outlines this time

period for assistantship funding; however, not currently followed. Students are often funded for a longer period of time. This should be given some thought. Should changes be made to the rule? How are years counted? Calendar? Academic? There should be a mechanism for appeal built in to the rule to extend funding when circumstances warrant. Should the 174 credit hour limit be incorporated into the rule?

- Receive earlier notification of allocation of assistantship dollars. Generally, this occurs in April as the University budget is approved by the Board of Trustees around this time; however, it is important for colleges to receive this information in February, so offers can be made to attract the best students. Can there be some sort of guarantee of how much money will be available for assistantship funding?
- Consider moving away from multi-term admission to a fall enrollment deadline. There is some value to this shift as departments have the best chance at recruiting students in the fall term. Most good quality graduate programs only admit for the fall term. Many departments offer the foundation course(s) in the fall, and a student who starts in the spring term will be somewhat off-track. This however, would not necessarily be an all or none situation. Some programs might benefit from admitting students in both the fall and spring terms.

Industrial Assistantships

R. Ramsier stated that the Department of Development has never attempted to secure funds from donors for industrial assistantships due to the way they are counted. They are recorded by the Office of Research Administration and not the Development Office. There is no reason why students in any discipline couldn't take advantage of such opportunities. Industrial assistantships are not solely for the hard sciences and engineering. A student in any area should be able to benefit from industrial assistantships so long as the opportunity the organization is providing has educational value. The Department of Development could raise money through donors to support industrial assistantship.

Meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Graham
Secretary