

**The University of Akron**  
**Minutes of Graduate Council Meeting with President Scarborough**  
**November 23, 2015**

The Graduate Council met with President Scarborough on Monday, November 23, 2015, in the McColleston Room, Buchtel Hall. Dean Chand Midha presided. Present were Philip Allen, Eric Amis, Heather Blake, Amanda Booher, Ronald Gelleny, Qetler Jensrud, Nidaa Makki, Monique Mullett, Ronald Otterstetter, Martha Santos, Shivakumar Sastry, Provost Mike Sherman, Julia Spiker, Harvey Sterns, Lauri Thorpe, Margaret Tung, Anne Wiley, Nicole Zacharia, and Baomei Zhao.

**Call to Order**

Dean Midha called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

**Graduate School Strategic Planning Process**

Dean Midha stated that today's meeting with President Scarborough has been convened to discuss the Graduate School strategic planning process pertaining to graduate funding.

President Scarborough separated graduate programs into the following categories: Traditional Ph.D. programs, professional doctoral programs, research-focused master's programs, and professionally-focused master's programs. He indicated that:

- No changes will occur related to funding traditional Ph.D. programs.
- There should not be many students receiving funding in the professional doctoral programs (Au.D. and D.N.P.)
- Funding of master's programs needs to be discussed. Currently, all programs are being treated as if they are traditional Ph.D. programs.
- Many students are able to pay something, thus the suggestion might be that we determine what a student's ability to pay is, then package some unique financial aid for the student.

The question is in what way can this be optimized to improve the system both academically and economically?

Philip Allen requested that Graduate Council members be sent a spreadsheet over all four categories (traditional Ph.D., professional doctoral, research-focused master's, and professionally-focused master's) to identify not only the cost of each but also the revenue generated by each.

Martha Santos added that it would be helpful to have data on how the revenue compares to stipends paid.

President Scarborough said such data can be provided, though some things are based on estimate.

A three-year plan has been developed to stabilize University finances.

Concerns were expressed that, while there are advantages to cutting costs, this could affect other things such as enrollment.

President Scarborough stressed that the University needs strong academic programs to attract paying students in order to make our programs economically viable. Toward these ends, President Scarborough requested that Graduate Council members to help him and the Board of Trustees rationalize graduate funding expenses.

Some members of the council expressed concerns about the impact of the changes on graduate enrollment and reputation of the university. Members also expressed concern about the impact of the current hiring strategies on our graduate programs.

Dean Midha summarized that:

- Funding will be continued for all continuing students as well as new students in traditional Ph.D. programs.
- It must be determined what funding model will be imposed for professionally-focused master's programs.
- Research-focused master's programs must be defined.

An Ad Hoc Committee of four to five Graduate Council members should be established to work with Eric Amis, Vice Provost for Research, on defining which master's programs are research-focused.

The following members of Graduate Council volunteered to serve on this Ad Hoc committee: Philip Allen, Martha Santos, Shivakumar Sastry, and Nicole Zacharia.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shivakumar Sastry  
Secretary