

The University of Akron
Minutes of Graduate Council
September 22, 2014

The Graduate Council met on Monday, September 22, 2014 in the Student Union, Room 314. G. Newkome presided. Present were P. Allen, A. Booher, J. Goodell, M. Graham, N. Makki, R. Otterstetter, J. Spiker, H. Sterns, P. Thomson, and R. Willits.

Guests in attendance: M. Tausig and H. Blake

GC Members Absent with Notice: Q. Jensrud, A. Joy, J. Puskas, A. Thomas, and B. Zhao

GC Members Absent: F. Moore

Call to Order

G. Newkome called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Roll Call

H. Blake recorded the attendance of those present.

Welcome and Introduction of Council Members

G. Newkome asked Council members to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes

J. Goodell made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 28 meeting.

P. Thomson seconded this motion.

Minutes of the April 28 meeting were unanimously approved.

Comments

M. Tausig shared the following information with Graduate Council members:

- 1,155 master's degrees were awarded this year
- 126 doctoral degrees were awarded this year
- Fall 2013 census numbers are not yet available
- Fall 2014 graduate student headcount down 4%
- Fall 2014 graduate student credit hour production down 1.7%
- State is changing the way subsidy is awarded, shifting from enrollment to degree completion. By 2019 two-thirds of state subsidy will come from degree completion. Departments should begin thinking about this, perhaps, looking at admission criteria to admit better quality students as well as advisement of students, which is an important factor related to retention and degree completion.
- The University of Akron has the lowest doctoral degree completion rates in Ohio. Every other institution is working to address this shift in awarding of state subsidy, thus is imperative that UA begin addressing this issue as well.

Approval of Guests to Graduate Council Meetings

Graduate Council members approved the attendance of the following individuals to each Graduate Council meeting:

Dr. Mark Tausig, Associate Dean of the Graduate School and Heather Blake, Administrative Assistant Senior.

Election of Vice Chair

J. Goodell was elected as Vice Chair of Graduate Council.

Election of Secretary

M. Graham was elected as Secretary of Graduate Council.

Selection of Standing Committees

Chairs and Vice Chairs of the three standing committees of Graduate Council were elected. None of the standing committees were fully established. Council members were asked to get the names of committee representatives to Heather Blake as soon as possible, so that the standing committees can be fully constituted and begin their work.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Graduate Program Review

G. Newkome mentioned that the previous program review cycle that began in 2005 ended in 2013, and it is now time to begin program review again. The goal is to have this program review cycle completed in one year, and it is important to get everyone's input, thus would like to have Graduate Council involved.

Information on the graduate program review process as well as a timeline for the 2014-2015 program review cycle was distributed to Council members.

M. Tausig explained that review of graduate programs is required by RACGS. The process starts at the department level with completion of a self-study. Data will be provided to departments by Institutional Research and the Graduate School. Graduate student surveys will also be incorporated into the program review process. Program review is not intended to result in the elimination of programs. Graduate Council would be involved in the review of department self-studies, perhaps, compose small committees to review these. Six programs will be reviewed this year.

G. Newkome asked Graduate Council members to read the program review information in order to provide feedback for discussion at the October meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather A. Blake
Graduate School