

**The University of Akron
Minutes of Graduate Council
December 7, 2015**

The Graduate Council met on Monday, December 7, 2015, in the Student Union, Room 314. Dean Chand Midha presided. Present were Philip Allen, Eric Amis, Heather Blake, Nidaa Makki, Ronald Otterstetter, Martha Santos, Shivakumar Sastry, Julia Spiker, Harvey Sterns, Lauri Thorpe, Margaret Tung, Anne Wiley, and Nicole Zacharia.

GC Members Absent with Notice: Amanda Booher, John Goodell, Qetler Jensrud, Monique Mullett, Judit Puskas, Andrew Thomas, and Baomei Zhao.

Call to Order

Dean Midha called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Roll Call

Heather Blake recorded the attendance of those present.

Approval of Minutes

Harvey Sterns made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2015 meeting. Nidaa Makki seconded the motion. Minutes of the November 9 meeting were approved without dissent.

Philip Allen made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 23, 2015 meeting. Shivakumar Sastry seconded the motion. Members present discussed several aspects of the role of ad hoc committee prior to approving the minutes of the November 23. Finally, the minutes were approved without dissent.

Committee Reports and Referrals

Curriculum Committee – Philip Allen presented a log of 23 proposals reviewed and approved by the committee: A&S-ENGL-15-14073, A&S-DANCETHEAT-15-15812, A&S-PHYS-14-11090, A&S-PHYS-14-13001, A&S-PHYS-15-13131, A&S-PHYS-15-13132, A&S-PHYS-15-13133, A&S-PHYS-15-13134, A&S-PHYS-15-13135, BUS-FINAN-15-15140, BUS-FINAN-15-15141, BUS-FINAN-15-15205, BUS-FINAN-15-15211, BUS-MANGT-15-15371, BUS-MANGT-15-15372, BUS-MANGT-15-15373, BUS-MANGT-15-15374, BUS-MANGT-15-15841, CHP-NURIN-15-14265, CHP-NURIN-15-15013, CHP-NURIN-15-15681, CHP-SPLANG-15-13092, and CHP-SPLANG-15-13093. Approved by Council.

Graduate Faculty Membership Committee – Nidaa Makki presented a log of three graduate faculty applications as reviewed by the committee. Approved by Council.

Chen Ling

Chelsea Monty

Dudley B. Turner

Ad Hoc Committee Regarding Graduate Student Funding

Vice Provost for Research, Eric Amis, stated that his charge is to provide distinction between the four categories of graduate programs (traditional Ph.D., professional doctorate, research master's, and professional master's). Input is needed from the Ad Hoc Committee. In this role, the Ad Hoc committee is an advisory committee to Eric Amis. The Ad Hoc Committee reports through Graduate Council and discussion that takes place will go to Faculty Senate.

Dean Midha said the Ad Hoc Committee will help the Vice Provost for Research with defining professional master's and research master's programs.

Some concern was expressed by Graduate Council members regarding how these definitions of master's programs will affect funding.

Eric Amis stated that determinations should be made first based on academic issues and we could address financial issues as a second step.

Philip Allen expressed the need for data that would be helpful to the committee.

Lauri Thorpe instructed Graduate Council members send all specific data requests to her. She has someone with extensive experience that will get data requested.

Shivakumar Sastry asked that Graduate Council members formulate their data requests and send those to him, and he will compile them and send to Lauri Thorpe on behalf of the Graduate Council and the UC Budget and Finance Committee.

Harvey Sterns questions if, for the coming academic year, assistantships are going to be offered for traditional Ph.D. programs. Dean Midha confirmed that assistantships will be offered for traditional Ph.D. programs.

Shivakumar Sastry questioned if incoming master's students funded by external research dollars will be permitted for next academic year. Eric Amis responded that students could be funded by external dollars if they are academically eligible.

The issue that needs to be discussed is incoming master's students being funded by Graduate School tuition dollars.

Lauri Thorpe mentioned that Ruffalo Noel Levitz is in the process of conducting a financial aid optimization for the Graduate School. Results are not anticipated to be available until late January or early February at the soonest.

Eric Amis indicated that he will convene a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shivakumar Sastry
Secretary