

**The University of Akron  
Minutes of Graduate Council  
October 17, 2016**

The Graduate Council met on Monday, October 17, 2016, in the Student Union, Room 310. Dean Chand Midha presided. Present were Dr. Philip Allen, Associate Dean Charles Beneke, Dr. Amanda Booher, Dr. Marcus Braga-Alves, Dr. Gary Holliday, Dr. Qetler Jensrud, Dr. Martha Santos, Dr. Shivakumar Sastry, Dr. John Senko, Dr. James Steiger, Dr. Harvey Sterns, Dr. Baffour Takyi, and Dr. Margaret Tung.

GC Members Absent with Notice: Dr. Ronald Otterstetter, Dr. Judit Puskas, and Dr. Nicole Zacharia

GC Members Absent: Dr. Andrew Thomas

**Call to Order**

Dean Midha called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

**Roll Call**

Heather Blake recorded the attendance of those present.

**Remarks – Dean Midha**

Dean Midha stated that a third Graduate Council member is still needed for the Program Review Committee. Dr. Braga-Alves agreed to serve on the committee. The group unanimously elected Dr. Braga-Alves to the committee.

The Faculty Senate has been informed of the plan for the program review. Faculty Senate representative Dr. Phil Allen and Dr. Charles Beneke are Co-Chairs for the Review. The group was informed that the Co-Chairs would meet with Interim Senior Vice President and Provost Ramsier to provide him an update on program review and the proposed template. The Co-Chairs of the Program Review committee and Dean Midha met with the Vice Provost for Research to get his input on what metrics should be considered to evaluate research productivity.

Dean Midha indicated that a question was raised on the Senate floor regarding assistantships and if we are getting away from the traditional model of assistantship and what is the plan. We are not getting away from the traditional model of assistantships. We are exploring alternate models for tuition remission.

**Committee Reports**

Curriculum Committee – Dr. Allen presented a log of 17 proposals reviewed and approved by the committee: BUS-FINAN-16-17648, BUS-MANGT-16-18123, BUS-MANGT-16-18126, BUS-MANGT-16-18131, BUS-MANGT-16-18138, BUS-MANGT-16-18141, BUS-MANGT-16-17204, BUS-MANGT-16-17210, EDUC-CURR-16-17256, EDUC-CURR-16-17257, EDUC-EDFOUND-16-17039, ENGR-ELECTE-15-13153, ENGR-ELECTE-15-13179, CHP-NURIN-14-11026, CHP-NURIN-16-18374, CHP-SPLANG-14-12177, and CHP-SPLANG-16-17862. Approved by Council.

Graduate Faculty Membership Committee – Dr. Takyi presented a log of 15 graduate faculty applications as reviewed by the committee. Approved by Council.

John R.Savery	Deborah L. Owens	Sarah Hinchliffe	Jill Bisco
Ronald Gelleny	Michael A. Nelson	Ping Yi	Qindan Huang
Hossein Tavana	Margo A. Gregor	Toni Bisconti	Henry Astley
Christine R. Russell	Sujay Datta	Hunter King	

**New Business**

**Strategic Initiatives**

Dr. Sastry stated that the subcommittee of Graduate Council met to discuss tuition remission provided to students for students who receive Graduate Assistantships, Research Assistantships or Community Industry Graduate Assistantships at the minimum stipend levels that have been established for each academic program.

Currently, tuition remission is provided at 15+15+15 credit hours for Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters. The Graduate Council and the Faculty Senate have unanimously approved the Strategic Plan that has been distributed to all members of this body at the beginning of this academic year. Addressing the tuition remission model was an important aspect of this plan.

Dr. Sastry made the following two motions:

Motion 1

The Graduate Council recommends that UA adopt a 12+12+8 credit hour model for tuition remissions provided to full-time graduate assistants who are receiving full stipends at the minimum level established for each program in the Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters starting Fall 2017. Students may take more credits in a given semester as long as total credit hours for the year does not exceed 32 credit hours and the student remains enrolled full-time in all three semesters. Exceptional circumstances will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Dr. Allen seconded the motion.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Motion 2

The Graduate Council recommends that all Graduate School funded graduate assistantships be offered to qualified students starting Fall 2017 as follows:

- For terminal Master's Students, a maximum of two years,
- For terminal Doctoral Students, a maximum of five years, and
- For students who pursue a Master's degree at UA followed by a Doctoral degree, a maximum of six years.

Dr. Allen seconded the motion.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Shivakumar Sastry  
Secretary