

The University of Akron
Minutes of Graduate Council
November 18, 2019

The Graduate Council met on Monday, November 18, 2019, in Student Union, Room 310. Acting Dean Marnie Saunders presided. Present were Dr. Wondimu Ahmed, Ms. Heather Blake, Dr. Amanda Booher, Dr. George Chase, Dr. Todd Gaffke, Dr. John Goodell, Dr. Christine Graor, Dr. Gary Holliday, Dr. Scott Palasik, Dr. Alex Povitsky, Dr. Francesco Renna, Dr. Martha Santos, Dr. Andrea Snell, and Ms. Amanda Stefin.

GC Members Absent with Notice: Dr. Sadhan Jana, Dr. Jina Sang, and Dr. Adam Smith

GC Members Absent: Dr. Travis Hreno

Call to Order

Acting Dean Saunders called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Roll Call

Heather Blake recorded the attendance of those present.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Snell made a motion to approve the minutes of September 23, 2019 and October 21, 2019. Dr. Palasik seconded the motion. Minutes of September 23, 2019 and October 21, 2019 were approved without dissent.

Remarks – Acting Dean Saunders

Acting Dean Saunders distributed several working documents for review and consideration. She asked Graduate Council members to regard these documents as draft and not for distribution.

Updates were provided on the following:

➤ Accelerated Degree Pathway

Acting Dean Saunders stated that upon Graduate Council's approval of a 3.3 minimum cumulative grade point average requirement a recommendation was made to Dr. Linda Saliga, Chair, Faculty Senate, for Senate discussion and endorsement. This did not make the November 7 Faculty Senate agenda.

➤ Program Review

Acting Dean Saunders indicated that she will continue to co-chair the program review committee. This should be a standing committee of Faculty Senate, and Dr. Saliga mentioned it to Faculty Senate; however, no decision has been made. Acting Dean Saunders stated that three members of Graduate Council serve on the program review committee. Last year, Drs. Holliday, Sang, and Soucek served as Graduate Council representatives. Dr. Holliday has agreed to serve again this year; however, Dr. Sang cannot serve due to her unavailability during the summer, and Dr. Soucek cannot serve as he is now department chair. As a result, Graduate Council representatives from the College of Health Professions and the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering are needed. The program review cycle is set to begin in December.

Dr. Snell made a motion to nominate Dr. Jana to serve as the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering representative on the program review committee. Dr. Holliday seconded the motion. Motion approved without dissent.

Dr. Palasik volunteered to serve as the College of Health Professions representative to the program review committee.

Sesquicentennial

Acting Dean Saunders shared with Graduate Council that, like other units across campus, the Graduate School will be participating in the Sesquicentennial. At present, April 2020 is the month assigned to showcase the Graduate School as it is graduate student appreciation month. Acting Dean Saunders distributed a calendar

outlining tentatively scheduled events to Graduate Council members. There will be a print ad with the tagline “Learn More, Earn More.” The focus will be on recruitment. While there will be several professional events fun events will be scheduled as well. The Graduate School will be partnering with UA-IS undergraduate and graduate student research symposium to be held on April 14, 2020. Acting Dean Saunders said the Graduate School would like to hold a student or graduate faculty lecture series and requested input from Graduate Council members on how to showcase excellence in graduate programs.

Dr. Snell suggested having current and former graduate students share information about their programs and careers with prospective students. Faculty could be present as well. This provides an opportunity for good social networking.

Dr. Holliday stated that the College of Education has held town halls where students had the opportunity to hear from other students.

Dr. Graor suggested a scientific café format. Presentations are given by researchers in casual settings such as bars or coffeehouses, and the public is invited. The research is presented in a way that can be understood. This may be something to encourage graduate students to attend.

Dr. Booher proposed Pecha Kucha as something to attract students and faculty. Pecha Kucha is a presentation of 20 slides on a topic with 20 seconds commentary on each slide.

Dr. Ahmed asked Acting Dean Saunders if she would like a committee to assist with this.

Acting Dean Saunders responded that it would be very helpful if people are willing.

Dr. Snell made a motion to form a committee to assist with development of a lecture series showcasing excellence in graduate programs. Dr. Booher seconded the motion. Motion approved without dissent. Drs. Ahmed, Booher, and Snell volunteered to serve on this committee.

Department Graduate Faculty Membership Requirements

Acting Dean Saunders indicated that most departments have not updated their graduate faculty membership criteria in several years; many not since 1991. She and Ms. Blake will reach out to the academic departments their current criteria and request they revise accordingly to include the updated categories of graduate faculty membership.

Graduate Student Leave Policy

Acting Dean Saunders stated that there has been discussion at CCGS related to graduate student leave policies, and some institutions shared the policies they currently have in place. Copies of these were distributed to Graduate Council. The University of Akron does not have a leave policy for graduate students. Acting Dean Saunders asked Graduate Council members if developing such a policy should be considered.

Ms. Stefin asked about a leave policy for graduate assistants.

Acting Dean Saunders replied that she cannot answer that as graduate students sign a contract to provide work service of 20 hours per week to their academic departments. Situations arising with graduate assistants may vary.

Dr. Booher asked if this should be something to go through the Student Policy Committee.

Acting Dean Saunders responded that this will be discussed once everyone has had the opportunity to read the materials provided.

Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee – Dr. Snell presented a report of 14 proposals that were reviewed and approved by the committee. All proposals approved by Graduate Council.

Department	Proposal
Accountancy	Program change: BS Accounting/Master of Taxation
Accountancy	Program change: BS/MS Accountancy

Accountancy	Course change: 6200:531 Business Entity Taxation
Accountancy	Course change: 6200:637 Business Analytics and Valuation
Accountancy	Course change: 6200:658 Enterprise Risk
Accountancy	Course change: 6200:659 Data Analysis and Assurance Services
Accountancy	Course change: 6200:665 Fraud and Financial Forensics
CBA Dean's Office	Program change: 603000MBA: Business Administration, Interdisciplinary MBA
Child and Family Development	New course: 3760:699 Master's Thesis in Child and Family Development (5 credits)
Curricular and Instructional Studies	Course change: 5500:628 Literacy Assessment Practicum
Curricular and Instructional Studies	5500:690 Educational Inquiry I
Finance	New program: Graduate Certificate in Risk Management and Insurance
Geosciences	New course: 3370:543 Rivers (3 credits)
Nursing	Program change: Family Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, Certificate

Dr. Snell stated that the committee has two additional proposals from the School of Accountancy they are in the process of reviewing and requested these be voted on electronically by Graduate Council once the committee has rendered approval. Graduate Council members had no objections to this request.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Martha Santos
Secretary