

The University of Akron
Minutes of Graduate Council
November 28, 2016

The Graduate Council met on Monday, November 28, 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. Ronald Otterstetter, Dr. Martha Santos, Dr. Shivakumar Sastry, Dr. John Senko, Dr. James Steiger, Dr. Harvey Sterns, Dr. Baffour Takyi, Dr. Margaret Tung, and Dr. Nicole Zacharia.

GC Members Absent with Notice: Dr. Judit Puskas

GC Members Absent: Dr. Andrew Thomas and Marina Pelemis

Call to Order

Dean Midha called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Roll Call

Heather Blake recorded the attendance of those present.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Allen made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2016 meeting.

Dr. Sterns seconded the motion.

Minutes of the November 14, 2016 meeting were approved without dissent.

Remarks – Dean Midha

Dean Midha stated that the Ernst and Young report has been distributed. The University's response is a plan to stabilize, invest, and grow. Part of the stabilization is to optimize use of graduate assistantships. He added that the University's operating expenses and revenue come mainly from tuition and fees and SSI.

Data Sharing Regarding Stipends and Tuition Awards

An analysis of graduate assistantship funding was presented for discussion. Data from other universities in Ohio revealed that the cost structure at UA is significantly higher. Dean Midha said it is important to look at the number of full-time graduate students who are self-paying. This can significantly help the university through the current financial situation.

An analysis of graduate enrollment by college for Fall 2013 through Fall 2016 and the number of self-paying students in each college was presented for discussion. These data were shared for information and will be discussed in a future meeting.

Full-time and half-time graduate assistant stipend and tuition awards were discussed, including the number of Graduate School stipends awarded and the number of other stipends awarded. An analysis by college for academic year 2014-2015 was presented.

A suggestion was made to breakdown other stipends awarded to identify how much comes from research grants as well as from other funds. As a related issue, it was noted that the information about research awards per college that was requested had not yet been received.

Dean Midha stated that he and Associate Dean Beneke along with members of the subcommittee of Graduate Council will meet with President Wilson this afternoon and share information about graduate assistantships with him.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Shivakumar Sastry
Secretary