

The University of Akron
Minutes of Graduate Council
February 19, 2018

The Graduate Council met on Monday, February 19, 2018, in Leigh Hall, Room 414. Dean Chand Midha presided. Present were Dr. Wondimu Ahmed, Dr. Philip Allen, Mr. Charles Beneke, Ms. Heather Blake, Dr. Amanda Booher, Dr. George Chase, Dr. Gary Holliday, Dr. Martha Santos, Associate Dean Marnie Saunders, Dr. John Senko, Dr. Mark Soucek, Dr. Baffour Takyi, and Dr. Nicole Zacharia.

Guest in Attendance: Dr. Harvey Sterns

GC Members Absent with Notice: Dr. Marcus Braga-Alves, Dr. Carolyn Murrock, Dr. Shivakumar Sastry, and Dr. Margaret Tung

GC Members Absent: Dr. Francesco Renna, Dr. Jina Sang, and Mr. Taylor Swift

Call to Order

Dean Midha called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Roll Call

Heather Blake recorded the attendance of those present.

Remarks – Dean Midha

Dean Midha stated that in the absence of a quorum no motions or voting will occur. The meeting convened with discussion only.

Dean Midha stated that since the last meeting doctoral set-aside of FTE was analyzed. Colleges were given their targets late last summer, indicating a certain number of FTE needed to be met so as not to lose subsidy. Deans offices were told it was up to them to determine how many credits in which their doctoral students need to enroll. All doctoral students with assistantship contracts can enroll in 12+12+6. Some departments requested that their doctoral students be permitted to enroll in more than 12 credit hours. Dean Midha reported that looking at credit hour enrollments for Fall 2017 we are right on target.

Dean Midha stated that departments have been asked what recruitment efforts have been made or are being made in their units. He added that recruitment of graduate students is down across the country, especially in departments that rely heavily on international students. Associate Dean Saunders will be leading an effort in the Graduate School with departments to see what can be done to enhance graduate enrollment, particularly at the master's-level.

Dr. Zacharia expressed that is increasingly difficult to recruit with the current fiscal situation in addition to a decreased number of faculty.

Dean Midha said that at present there are only two colleges that are receiving money for tuition and stipends for master's students. These colleges are Arts and Sciences and Engineering. It is entirely up to the colleges how they allocate monies to the academic departments. The Graduate School does not tell the colleges how they are to make their allocations.

Dean Midha mentioned the continuing concern with the CIGA policy, which has been circulated to all deans and department chairs. Drs. Allen and Chase are exploring a pilot program in which tuition funds would come out of grants.

Dr. Allen stated that if you add either tuition dollars or nine month effort dollars that impacts the general fund.

Dean Midha announced that the annual graduate faculty meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 14. The meeting is being held earlier this year, so that rule changes approved by Graduate Council can move forward before the end of the semester.

Dr. Sterns inquired about the tenor at the state-level.

Dean Midha responded that deans are all struggling with enrollment decline. New programs are being discussed and approved at other institutions; however, UA has not proposed any new degrees other than the professional master's degree in Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering and the Master of Studies in Law. Currently, 3+2 and 4+1 programs are being discussed.

Dr. Allen shared that the Ohio House is discussing a bill to merge the state departments of Education, Higher Education, and Workforce Transformation.

There were no further items for discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather A. Blake
Graduate School