

**The University of Akron
Minutes of Graduate Council
February 22, 2016**

The Graduate Council met on Monday, February 22, 2016, in the Student Union, Room 314. Dean Chand Midha presided. Present were Dr. Philip Allen, Charles Beneke, Dr. Qetler Jensrud, Dr. Nidaa Makki, Dr. Judit Puskas, Dr. Martha Santos, Dr. Shivakumar Sastry, Lauri Thorpe, Dr. Margaret Tung, Dr. Anne Wiley, and Dr. Nicole Zacharia.

GC Members Absent with Notice: Dr. Amanda Booher, Dr. John Goodell, Dr. Ronald Otterstetter, Dr. Julia Spiker, and Dr. Baomei Zhao

GC Members Absent: Monique Mullett, Dr. Harvey Sterns, and Dr. Andrew Thomas

Call to Order

Dean Midha called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

Roll Call

Heather Blake recorded the attendance of those present.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Puskas made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2016 meeting.

Dr. Jensrud seconded the motion.

Minutes of the January 25 meeting were approved without dissent.

Remarks – Dean Midha

Dean Midha stated that since the last meeting a lot has happened. A memo was sent to each of the colleges informing them that graduate stipends budgeted for 2016-2017 will be the same as 2015-2016. Charles Beneke will be sending an email to the non-academic units in which there are administrative graduate assistants asking them for the number of assistants needed for 2016-2017 as well as a justification for these administrative graduate assistants.

Committee Reports and Referrals

Curriculum Committee – Dr. Allen presented a log of 11 proposals reviewed and approved by the committee: A&S-ART-15-15862, CHP-NURIN-15-14330, CHP-NURIN-15-15681, ENGR-BIOMED-14-10115, ENGR-BIOMED-15-13412, POLY-POLYDEAN-15-15617, POLY-POLYDEAN-15-16037, POLY-POLYDEAN-15-16061, POLY-POLYDEAN-15-16062, POLY-POLYDEAN-16063 and POLY-POLYDEAN-15-16064. Approved by Council.

Graduate Faculty Membership Committee – Dr. Makki presented a log of 16 graduate faculty applications as reviewed by the committee. Fifteen of the graduate faculty applications were approved. One graduate faculty application, Dr. Daniel Deckler, was denied because the publications listed on the applicant's vita were not refereed publications appropriate to the field. The following were approved by Council.

Peter Niewiarowski	Petra Gruber	Michelle S. Hoo Fatt	Jae-Won Choi	Wieslaw Binienda
Judit E. Puskas	John Goodell	Melinda Newman	Xiong Gong	Mark D. Soucek
Bryan D. Vogt	Kevin Cavicchi	Carol J. Scotto	K. Todd Houston	Frank Ward

Role of Consultants

Dr. Allen and Dr. Sastry shared information with the Graduate Council about President Scarborough's remarks related to the consultants. Accordingly, the Graduate Council would have a say in the matter of how we go forward with the consultants.

Tuition Awards Discussion for 2017-2018

Dean Midha stated that we are currently spending about \$20,000 per FTE student. He called on the Council to offer solutions to improve the efficiency of our graduate education. He indicated that the Graduate School is currently working on funding for 2017-2018. Faculty members will have a say in issues related to graduate assistantship funding for 2017-2018. This includes both Graduate Council and Faculty Senate.

Dean Midha said that it is important to look at how much we are spending on tuition awards (in-state and out-of-state). As a result, he and Charles Beneke chose six departments across various colleges to examine based on 2014-2015 numbers to see how much of what is budgeted is actually being spent. According to these data, the Graduate School counts 45 credit hours per student at a rate of 15 credit hours each for Fall, Spring and Summer semesters. Members discussed this and agreed that this rate of registration is high. Alternative models such as 12+12+6 credit hours were discussed.

Council members were asked to further consider and offer suggestions on how we can be more efficient with the dollars budgeted for graduate assistantships. Dr. Allen and Dr. Sastry volunteered to work with Charles Beneke to prepare a draft strategic plan for the Graduate School. This draft will be discussed and voted on by all the members of the Graduate Council. The primary goal for this plan is to ensure that enrollment is not hurt while modeling good practices in our peer institutions.

It was suggested that we could consider reducing or eliminating the out-of-state tuition in order to attract more self-paying students. A question was asked whether the out-of-state can be reduced to zero.

Concerns were expressed about the looming reductions in support for students from Saudi Arabia. It was noted that 90% of the students in ELI are from Saudi Arabia and the current agreement is open until 2020. There are currently 316 recipients of these awards at The University of Akron.

Lauri Thorpe asked Graduate Council members to remind the appropriate persons in their respective departments to get their admission and denial recommendations to Tracy McCune, Director, Graduate Admissions.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shivakumar Sastry
Secretary