



**The University of Akron  
Minutes of Graduate Council  
March 18, 2019  
Student Union, Room 310**

Dean Chand Midha presided.

Present: Dr. Wondimu Ahmed, Ms. Heather Blake, Dr. George Chase, Dr. Todd Gaffke, Dr. R. Ray Gehani, Mr. Alex Gerrerd, Dr. Gary Holliday, Dr. Carolyn Murrock, Dr. Alex Povitsky, Dr. Coleen Pugh, Dr. Francesco Renna, Dr. Jina Sang, Dr. Martha Santos, Associate Dean Marnie Saunders, Dr. John Senko, and Dr. Claire Tessier.

GC Members Absent with Notice: Dr. Amanda Booher and Dr. Baffour Takyi

GC Members Absent: Dr. Mark Soucek

**Call to Order:** Dean Midha called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

**Roll Call:** Heather Blake recorded the attendance of those present.

### **Approval of Minutes**

January 28, 2019 – Dr. Pugh made a motion to approve the minutes of January 28. Dr. Holliday seconded the motion. Minutes from the January 28, 2019 meeting were approved without dissent.

February 18, 2019 – Dr. Povitsky noted a correction to the minutes of February 18. Correction was noted and will be made. Dr. Povitsky made a motion to approve the minutes of February 18 with correction. Dr. Chase seconded the motion. Minutes from the February 18, 2019 meeting were approved without dissent.

### **1. Remarks – Dean Midha**

Dean Midha stated that a lot has happened since the last meeting. President Green discussed reorganization plans with Faculty Senate. As a result, a pause has been placed on the plans for reorganization. A special Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for today. Prior to that meeting a Council of Deans meeting will be held at which information related to the special board meeting will be provided.

Dr. Gehani questioned the reason for the pause.

Dean Midha responded that there was good discussion on the Senate floor during which some concerns were raised. Faculty questioned what the reorganization can achieve. The President responded that it would make it easier for students to take courses and earn degrees. Faculty inquired as to why new colleges are needed to accomplish this. Dean Midha said that department chairs and school directors met eight days ago. At this time, we will wait the remainder of the spring semester and summer to see if new degrees can be established.

### **2. Committee Reports**

Curriculum Committee – Dr. Ahmed presented a list of 27 proposals that were reviewed and approved by the committee: A&S-ENGL-18-25021, A&S-ART-19-26016, A&S-ART-19-26019, A&S-COMPSCI-18-23647, A&S-COMPSCI-18-23860, A&S-COMPSCI-18-24123, A&S-MUSIC-14-10861, A&S-MUSIC-15-14472, A&S-MUSIC-15-14473, A&S-MUSIC-15-14474, A&S-MUSIC-15-14478, A&S-MUSIC-19-26007, A&S-MUSIC-19-26011, CHP-COUNS-18-25626, CHP-COUNS-18-25628, CHP-COUNS-18-25630, CHP-COUNS-18-25631, CHP-COUNS-18-25632, CHP-COUNS-18-25633, CHP-COUNS-18-25634, CHP-COUNS-18-25704, CHP-COUNS-18-25705, CHP-COUNS-18-25706, CHP-COUNS-18-25708, CHP-

COUNS-18-25709, CHP-NURIN-18-24738, and CHP-SPLANG-18-25484. All proposals approved by Graduate Council.

Dr. Ahmed reported that the committee received a request from the School of Sport Science and Wellness Education requesting a change in CIP code for the Exercise Physiology/Adult Fitness master's program. This request was reviewed and approved by the curriculum committee last year; however, upon presenting the request to Graduate Council additional information was requested. Dr. Otterstetter provided additional information as requested. The curriculum committee had no concerns and approved the request to change the CIP code for the Exercise Physiology/Adult Fitness master's program.

Dr. Gehani made a motion to approve change in CIP code for Exercise Physiology/Adult Fitness master's program. Dr. Holliday seconded the motion. The request was approved without dissent.

Dr. Gehani suggested that the request be reviewed and endorsed by the research officers before submission to the Provost. Dr. Chase and Dr. Allen will review.

Graduate Faculty Membership Committee – Dr. Holliday presented a list of 40 graduate faculty applications and revised graduate faculty membership criteria from the Department of History that were reviewed and approved the committee. All graduate faculty applications and revised graduate faculty membership criteria were approved by Graduate Council.

Todd A. Blackledge	Robert Joel Duff	Peter Lavrentyev	Stephen Weeks
Yu-Kuang Hu	David Steer	Laurie Dunlap	Richard Einsporn
Yang Lin	Julia A. Spiker	Mary E. Tiece	Howard M. Ducharme
Joseph P. LiVecchi	Thomas Neal	Alan S. Ambrisco	Janet Bean
Philathia Bolton	David Giffels	Jon Miller	Il-Woon Kim
Sheau-Huey Chiu	Carolyn J. Murrock	Pei-Yang Liu	Charles H. Carlin
Jina Sang	Mary Jo MacCracken	Kristin L. Koskey	Ge Zhang
Rouzbeh Amini	David M. Bastidas	Teresa Cutright	Stephen E. Duirk
Craig C. Menzemer	Yalin Dong	Siamak Farhad	Kewk-Tze Tan
Shing-Chung Josh Wong	Chang Ye	Matthew L. Becker	Junpeng Wang

### **3. New Business**

#### Tuition for Tutoring Incentive

Dean Midha stated that he had a discussion with the President and Provost regarding an incentive to provide funding to graduate students to serve as tutors in designated undergraduate courses provided by the academic units. Students could receive a tuition waiver up to \$2,500 per semester. This will help undergraduate students interact with graduate students. Graduate students would not necessarily be tutoring in the same disciplines as the undergraduate students. Academic units would be able to advertise on their websites that tuition waivers are available to graduate students to serve as tutors. Dean Midha indicated that the President and Provost were receptive, and this was mentioned briefly at the Council of Deans meeting.

Dr. Senko asked how many tuition waivers would be available.

Dean Midha responded that he is not certain as it depends on how much support the University will provide.

Dr. Gehani asked if there is a minimum grade point average a student must have to receive a waiver.

Associate Dean Saunders responded that students must be in good academic standing.

Dean Midha said that 2.75 is the admission standard in most graduate programs. The minimum grade point average should be a little higher for tuition waivers. These waivers are not restricted to only new graduate students.

Dr. Gehani suggested making 3.3 the minimum grade point average requirement.

Dr. Tessier commented that this is a good retention tool. She asked if there was any thought on making this a learning assistant model.

Dean Midha responded that a learning assistant is an undergraduate student assisting undergraduate students. This program is geared for graduate students to tutor freshman and sophomore courses.

Dr. Senko asked how these students would be paid.

Dean Midha said that students would be paid as a student assistant at a rate of \$10/hour.

Dr. Tessier made a motion to approve the tuition for tutoring incentive. Dr. Renna seconded the motion. The proposed tuition for tutoring incentive was approved without dissent.

Dean Midha stated that this will have to go to Faculty Senate for review and approval.

### Recruitment Efforts

Associate Dean Saunders stated that recruitment efforts of the colleges were distributed for review with a summary of what programs are doing. She is seeking to start a dialogue about what is and isn't working. Currently, there is no indication of how effective these efforts are. Associate Dean Saunders stated that she did receive feedback from the Department of Biology that purchasing GRE scores has not been effective.

Dr. Pugh said that there are some additional things that her college is doing and will forward those.

Dr. Gehani stated that there are 2018-2019 recruitment efforts that need added for CBA. He said that the college has a new Assistant Dean for Graduate Studies, and 30 to 40 information sessions have been scheduled. They are adjusting to a loss of staff and have a strategic plan on new initiatives.

Dean Midha responded that information sessions should also be conducted in other colleges. He added that Associate Dean Saunders has taken the initiative to have some information sessions for juniors and seniors.

Dr. Renna mentioned that the School of Law is very successful in recruiting and questioned why we don't confer with them on their recruitment efforts.

Dean Midha stated that the School of Law attends a lot of recruitment fairs, and the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering attends conferences and fairs. However, not all colleges have the staffing to undertake these efforts.

Associate Dean Saunders said that Friday, April 5 is the date for the Graduate School information sessions. Information on the admission and application process will be provided as well as general Graduate School information. She stated that the Graduate School would like to do this every semester.

Dr. Santos suggested that these sessions be held in the fall, especially for seniors.

### Checklist and Guide for Proposal Review

Dr. Chase stated that there is a new research policy. For all new proposals for every two dollars allocated to the PI or Co-PI salary one dollar is required to be allocated to buyout salary. Every proposal that has less than full IDC or tuition of \$5,000 per graduate student per year will be reviewed by the Provost. Dr. Chase said that proposals that meet all requirements will not need reviewed. For those proposals that require review the PI must provide a rationale as to why the proposal should go through. Does the proposal have a significant broader impact? Is the project extraordinarily valuable to the University?

Dr. Gehani asked if the new policy could be shared.

Dr. Chase responded that it is still a work in progress and doesn't want to share the document until it has been completed.

Dean Midha stated that there are two more meetings of Graduate Council remaining this semester. If the April 15 meeting is too early to provide this information it could be discussed at the annual graduate faculty meeting, which is usually held the third or fourth week of April. All full-time graduate faculty members are invited to attend.

Dr. Chase said that the Board of Trustees have been informed and approved changing the research policy. He is currently working with the Provost, so that proposals can be reviewed. When a proposal does not meet all the criteria there must be some justification as to why it should be approved. What are the benefits?

Dr. Allen stated that other factors are considered when a proposal does not meet the requirements of the research policy.

Dr. Pugh said that she would like to see the effectiveness of this policy and if the effort is worthwhile and saving money.

Dr. Allen responded that this data is available. He added that such a policy is relatively common and occurs at other universities. The University's plan to include tuition of \$5,000 per student is not as strict as KSU or CWRU.

Dean Midha mentioned that it may be helpful to have information over the last few years.

Dr. Senko expressed concern that reviews of proposals are taking place without a standardized process.

Dr. Allen stated that the Office of Research Administration has a fiduciary responsibility that must be fulfilled otherwise we will no longer be permitted to do research. The greatest problem is when individuals want to keep all their salary for summer, and we can no longer afford to do that.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Dr. R. Ray Gehani  
Secretary

Upcoming meetings: Mondays 9:00 – 10:30 AM, April 15, and May 6, 2019.