

The University of Akron
Minutes of Graduate Council
March 20, 2017

The Graduate Council met on Monday, March 20, 2017, in the Student Union, Room 310. Dean Chand Midha presided. Present were Dr. Philip Allen, Associate Dean Charles Beneke, Heather Blake, Dr. Amanda Booher, Dr. Marcus Braga-Alves, Dr. Gary Holliday, Dr. Ronald Otterstetter, Dr. Shivakumar Sastry, Dr. John Senko, Dr. James Steiger, Dr. Harvey Sterns, Dr. Baffour Takyi, and Dr. Margaret Tung.

GC Members Absent with Notice: Dr. Qetler Jensrud and Dr. Nicole Zacharia

GC Members Absent: Marina Pelemis, Dr. Judit Puskas, Dr. Martha Santos, and Dr. Andrew Thomas

Call to Order

Dean Midha called the meeting to order at 9:07 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 February 27, 2017. Dr. Otterstetter seconded the motion. Minutes of the February 27, 2017 meeting were approved without dissent.

Dr. Sastry made a motion to reaffirm that Dr. Allen and Dr. Sterns are full members of the Graduate Council. Dr. Allen made friendly amendment to the motion that all appointees of Faculty Senate are full members of Graduate Council. Dr. Booher seconded the motion reaffirming that all appointees of Faculty Senate are full members of Graduate Council. Approved unanimously. Motion carries.

Dr. Booher made a motion to approve the minutes of March 13, 2017 with the noted corrections. Dr. Otterstetter seconded the motion. Minutes of the March 13, 2017 with noted corrections were approved without dissent.

Remarks – Dean Midha

Dean Midha said that, on Friday, he was asked by Provost Ramsier if a memo was circulated to the deans regarding Graduate School funding distribution. Associate Dean Beneke confirmed that a memo was sent via email to the deans on February 28. Deans were asked to communicate this information to their department chairs. Department chairs, then, should have shared the information with faculty. Dean Midha queried members of Graduate Council to determine who was made aware of the graduate funding distribution.

Dean Midha stated that the memo that was sent out provided the amount funding allocated to each college under the new funding model for the Fall 2017 entering master's students. The memo also stated that colleges may begin recruiting doctoral students for next academic year based upon stipend dollars freed up from graduating doctoral students. The Graduate School will continue to monitor tuition awards.

Dean Midha said that the Graduate School is still working to revise the assistantship contracts. Departments will be required to indicate the duties of teaching assistants. There is nothing preventing departments from making offers, but they should not be making offers if they don't know where the students will be working and what duties they will be assigned.

Dean Midha stated that one of the recommendations made is to no longer fund research assistants. This results in \$1.4 million savings in stipends. This savings would provide for 70 additional graduate assistants that would become teaching assistants. It will be necessary to identify where to accommodate these students. Dr. Allen responded that this is an important issue. If you have former doctoral research assistants moving over to teaching assistants in terminal master's degree programs it is important for the departments with these master's programs to be certain this makes sense for them. Dr. Senko inquired if former research assistantships are still considered as assistantships but must simply be moved to teaching assistantships, or are these assistantships just gone? He wondered how we would realize the \$1.4M savings if these assistantships are continued in a different form.

Dean Midha said this is an issue that needs to be addressed. Budget cuts will not harm doctoral programs. While no research assistants will be funded by the Graduate School if departments can find suitable candidates who can do the job as teaching assistants the money is not lost. Dr. Sterns stated that new students should be placed in labs, and continuing students are those who should be placed in a teaching role. Dr. Sastry said this has to be a long-term engagement. How are we going to support the teaching mission? Students must be provided clear expectations, and their performance must be monitored. Dr. Takyi suggested that students, both domestic and international, attend a teaching workshop.

Dean Midha asked Graduate Council members to convey this information their colleagues.

Finally, Dean Midha stated that he, members of the Executive Committee of Graduate Council, and the former Associate Director of the Office of Institutional Research will be going to Columbus on March 30 for a meeting to discuss subsidy.

Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee – Dr. Allen presented a log of two proposals as reviewed and approved by the committee: CHP-NURIN-16-19338 and CHP-SOCIAL-16-18691. Approved by Council.

Graduate Faculty Membership Committee – Dr. Takyi presented a log of 23 graduate faculty applications as reviewed and approved by the committee. Approved by Council.

Donald W. Ott	Adam Smith	Chrys Wesdemiotis	Leah Shriver
Colin Onita	Federico de Gregorio	Baffour Takyi	Adrienne Frech
Hillary Nunn	Michael Schuldiner	Brad M. Maguth	Evonn N. Welton
Gary Holliday	Denise H. Stuart	Xin Liang	Ann Hassenpflug
Leann Schaeffer	James Slowiak	Peter Gordon	Malena I. Espanol
Kevin Kreider	Truyen Nguyen	Alan S. Kornspan	

New Business

NTT Graduate Faculty Membership

Dean Midha stated that there needs to be discussion about graduate faculty status for non-tenure track faculty, paying attention to current graduate faculty membership requirements for full graduate faculty membership as well as Ad Hoc Temporary graduate faculty membership. Dean Midha said that he has had some discussion with deans at other institutions, and the requirements for graduate faculty membership vary greatly.

Graduate Council members discussed publication requirements for full graduate faculty membership. Ad Hoc Temporary graduate faculty status was also discussed.

Dean Midha asked Heather Blake to identify how many graduate courses in Spring 2017 are being taught by Ad Hoc Temporary graduate faculty members.

Dr. Takyi stated that the Graduate Faculty Membership Committee discussed graduate faculty membership for non-tenure track faculty and arrived at recommendations, which were distributed to Graduate Council members.

There was no discussion of these of these recommendations.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Shivakumar Sastry
Secretary