



**The University of Akron
Minutes of Graduate Council
April 15, 2019
Student Union, Room 310**

Dean Chand Midha presided.

Present: Dr. Philip Allen, Ms. Heather Blake, Dr. Amanda Booher, Dr. George Chase, Dr. Todd Gaffke, Dr. R. Ray Gehani, Dr. Gary Holliday, Dr. Carolyn Murrock, Dr. Alex Povitsky, Dr. Francesco Renna, Dr. Martha Santos, Associate Dean Marnie Saunders, Dr. John Senko, Dr. Mark Soucek, and Dr. Claire Tessier.

GC Members Absent with Notice: Dr. Wondimu Ahmed, Dr. Coleen Pugh, Dr. Jina Sang, and Dr. Baffour Takyi

GC Members Absent: Mr. Alec Gerrerd

Call to Order: Dean Midha called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

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

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Holliday made a motion to approve the minutes of March 18, 2019 meeting. Dr. Murrock seconded the motion. Minutes from the March 18, 2019 meeting were approved without dissent.

1. Remarks – Dean Midha

Dean Midha stated at the last meeting the Tuition for Tutoring Incentive was discussed. This has now been approved by Faculty Senate. The Graduate School will work with the Provost to get a list of undergraduate courses in which graduate students could serve as tutors.

Dean Midha shared that last year the deadline for all graduate assistant contracts was May 1. Because of changing immigration issues, it is has become more challenging for departments to meet the May 1 deadline. Dean Midha stated that he is making a recommendation to extend this deadline to July 1.

Dr. Chase inquired if this deadline is for TA contracts, RA contracts, or all contracts.

Dean Midha suggested that all contracts follow this deadline date; however, the date is for Graduate School funded contracts.

Dean Midha announced that that annual graduate faculty meeting will be held on Monday, April 22. As Vice Chair of Graduate Council Dr. Mark Soucek will be providing a report.

Dr. Soucek inquired about the current budget situation as he has heard several different figures.

Dean Midha stated that the University has a \$45M structural deficit.

Dr. Chase said that UARF has been asked to cash out some CDs. He stated that the CFO makes projections and looks for other ways to fill shortfalls.

Dr. Allen shared that there was a \$1M overestimate on graduate stipends and a \$1M overestimate on undergraduate scholarships.

Dean Midha asked Dr. Allen to continue educating Graduate Council more on budget-related matters as he serves on the budget committee of University Council.

2. Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee – Dr. Senko presented a list of 18 proposals that were reviewed and approved by the committee: A&S-ART-19-26022, A&S-CHEM-19-26497, A&S-CHEM-19-26499, A&S-CHEM-19-26501, A&S-CHEM-19-26503, A&S-CHEM-19-26505, A&S-COMMUN-16-18922, A&S-COMMUN-16-19156, A&S-COMPSCI-18-23647, A&S-COMPSCI-18-23860, A&S-GEOSCIENCE-19-26658, A&S-GEOSCIENCE-19-26661, CHP-NURIN-17-22652, CHP-NURIN-17-22653, CHP-NURIN-18-24930, CHP-NURIN-18-24931, CHP-NURIN-19-26743, and CHP-SOCIAL-18-23758. All proposals approved by Graduate Council.

Dean Midha noted that sees departments proposing a number of new courses but rarely deleting any. He also mentioned that there are very few proposals for new degree programs. Other universities are routinely putting forward proposals to the state for new graduate programs.

Dean Midha said it may not be necessary to meet on May 6. An email will be sent to all Graduate Council members to determine whether there is a need to meet.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Heather A. Blake
Graduate School