

The University of Akron
Minutes of Graduate Council
April 16, 2018

The Graduate Council met on Monday, April 16, 2018, in the Student Union, Room 310. Dean Chand Midha presided. Present were Dr. Philip Allen, Ms. Heather Blake, Dr. Amanda Booher, Dr. George Chase, Dr. Gary Holliday, Dr. Carolyn Murrock, Dr. Francesco Renna, Dr. Martha Santos, Dr. Shivakumar Sastry, Associate Dean Marnie Saunders, Dr. John Senko, Dr. Mark Soucek, Dr. Baffour Takyi, Dr. Margaret Tung, and Dr. Nicole Zacharia.

Guest in Attendance: Dr. Harvey Sterns

GC Members Absent with Notice: Dr. Wondimu Ahmed and Dr. Marcus Braga-Alves

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

Call to Order

Dean Midha called the meeting to order at 9:13 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 January 22, 2018; February 19, 2018; and March 19, 2018. Dr. Holliday seconded the motion. Minutes of the January 22, 2018, February 19, 2018, and March 19, 2018 meetings were approved without dissent.

Remarks – Dean Midha

Dean Midha stated that since the last Graduate Council meeting the Graduate School held a meeting regarding graduate student recruitment. President Wilson attended this meeting. He is concerned about graduate enrollment. Change in policies in Washington, D.C., are affecting international student enrollment. The colleges are being asked to share what recruitment efforts they are undertaking. Associate Dean Saunders has other recruitment initiatives lined up going forward.

Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee – Dr. Allen presented a log of 21 curriculum proposals as reviewed and approved by the committee: A&S-BIOL-17-22024, A&S-DANCETHEAT-15-15813, A&S-DANCETHEAT-15-15925, A&S-STATS-17-21728, BUS-BUSDEAN-17-22538, BUS-BUSDEAN-18-23123, CHP-COUNS-18-23282, CHP-NURIN-17-22386, CHP-NURIN-17-22644, CHP-NURIN-17-22645, CHP-NURIN-17-22646, CHP-SOCIAL-16-18688, CHP-SOCIAL-18-23252, CHP-SOCIAL-18-23383, CHP-SOCIAL-18-23506, CHP-SOCIAL-18-23518, CHP-SOCIAL-18-23541, CHP-SOCIAL-18-23552, CHP-SOCIAL-18-23555, CHP-SOCIAL-18-23558, and CHP-SOCIAL-18-23654. Nineteen of the proposals were approved by Council. A&S-DANCETHEAT-15-15813 and A&S-DANCETHEAT-15-15925 were approved contingent upon meeting CCGS requirements.

Graduate Faculty Membership Committee – Dr. Zacharia presented a log of 39 graduate faculty applications as reviewed by the committee. Thirty-eight of the applicants were approved for the category requested. Approved by Council.

Junliang Tao	Anil Patnaik	Alex Povitsky	Jiang Zhe
Scott Lillard	Mark D. Foster	Coleen Pugh	Yu Zhu
Ali Dhinojwala	Darrell Reneker	Sadhan C. Jana	Ruel McKenzie
John Senko	Scott Palasik	Shernavaz Vakil	Sandra Coyner
Matthew Juravich	Martha Santos	Nancy Marion	Siqi Ma
Andrew R. Thomas	Heather Braun	Joseph F. Ceccio	Julie Drew
Eric Wasserman	Shannon Zentall	Dawn Johnson	Kevin Kaut
Suzette Speight	David M. Tokar	Ingrid K. Weigold	En Cheng

Andrew Sutton
Wiley J. Youngs

Michael Konopka
Christine H. Graor

David Modarelli

Claire Tessier

One application was discussed as the applicant did not meet the criteria for Category II graduate faculty membership and is seeking consideration based on professional reputation. Dr. Zacharia stated that the committee is looking for guidance from Graduate Council regarding this applicant. Graduate Council advised that the committee revisit the application and bring a recommendation forward for consideration at the next meeting.

New Business

Update on Applications/Admissions

Dean Midha shared information on the decline in graduate applications and admissions from 2016-2018. Such a decline in applications and admissions is a concern.

Graduate Council members expressed that the decline in applications and enrollment can be attributed to lack of funding and loss of faculty. A decrease in international students was also noted.

Dean Midha stated that doctoral funding has not been reduced. The other issue is the reduced number of faculty. Forty-eight faculty members have taken VRIP. There are not enough tenure-track faculty to advise students. In conversations with AAUP if there are qualified NTT faculty they should be holding tenure-track positions. On a case-by-case basis permission may be given to NTT faculty to advise students.

Dean Midha will be providing the information on applications and admissions to the colleges and the Provost. The Provost will share the information with the Interim President once one has been named.

Update on Provisional Admits for FY15 and FY 16

Associate Dean Saunders presented information on provisionally admitted students for FY15 and FY16. Eighty-six students were provisionally admitted in FY15, and 123 students were provisionally admitted in FY16 123. The data show that these students are succeeding. We do not have a number of provisionally admitted students who are failing out.

Formatting of Thesis and Dissertations

Dean Midha stated that students writing theses and dissertations must adhere to formatting guidelines. Students upload their theses and dissertations to OhioLink without having had the format checked. There is no consequence to students uploading their manuscripts to OhioLink without any format check, so the question is, what is the purpose of formatting? How much are faculty members focusing on format? When a student's signature page is submitted to the Graduate School for the graduate dean's signature the assumption is that the thesis or dissertation has been through all approvals.

Dr. Sastry said that he does not sign off on students' theses or dissertations if they are not formatted correctly. He requires students to use the template they are provided.

Dean Midha is currently looking at what other institutions are doing and will continue this discussion at the next meeting.

Dr. Soucek stated that his department uses iThenticate software to scan for plagiarism. He questioned if other departments are using this plagiarism software.

Dr. Allen responded that there is no iThenticate licensing agreement for the entire University.

Associate Dean Saunders shared that this year Dr. Steve Weeks in the Department of Biology has a licensing agreement with iThenticate and is willing to share with other departments.

Meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Shivakumar Sastry
Secretary