

The University of Akron
Minutes of Graduate Council
May 9, 2016

The Graduate Council met on Monday, May 9, 2016, in the Student Union, Room 314. Dean Chand Midha presided. Present were Dr. Philip Allen, Associate Dean Charles Beneke, Dr. John Goodell, Dr. Qetler Jensrud, Dr. Nidaa Makki, Dr. Ronald Otterstetter, Dr. Judit Puskas, Dr. Martha Santos, Dr. Julia Spiker, Dr. Harvey Sterns, Associate Dean Lauri Thorpe, and Dr. Nicole Zacharia.

GC Members Absent with Notice: Dr. Amanda Booher, Dr. Shivakumar Sastry, Dr. Margaret Tung, Dr. Anne Wiley, and Dr. Baomei Zhao.

GC Members Absent: 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

Minutes of the April 25 meeting were approved without dissent.

Remarks – Dean Midha

Dean Midha stated that at last month's meeting Galen Graber, consultant from Ruffalo Noel Levitz, was to join Graduate Council; however, he had to continue working on his report. He will be joining the meeting this morning.

The annual graduate faculty meeting was held on April 27. Many more faculty members were in attendance at this year's meeting than last year. It is important that there be more than one graduate faculty meeting per year. A graduate faculty meeting should be held each semester.

At the May 5 meeting of the Faculty Senate Dr. Allen presented the two resolutions made by Graduate Council at the April 25 meeting; to move the Graduate School to a more central location and that the Vice Provost for Research not also be an academic dean, because it affects Graduate Council's ability to impact change on recommendations on funding related to research assistantships using the graduate assistantships pool or money, and concerns regarding conflict of interest. These resolutions were approved by Faculty Senate.

Any changes made to the Graduate School strategic plan will be taken to Faculty Senate.

Lastly, Dean Midha recognized the outgoing members of Graduate Council and thanked them for their service.

Ruffalo Noel Levitz – WebEx with Galen Graber

Galen Graber provided the following recommendations for consideration based on beginning observations:

- Stipends in general are not excessive, but tuition awards appear to be excessive. Need to address tuition awards.
- Make tuition awards only to students with stipends paid through the Graduate School.
- The tuition award should not exceed the stipend award.
- Consider reducing the stipend support for Business, Education, and Health Professions.
- Graduate administrative assistant stipends that are awarded by a college should not receive tuition awards from the Graduate School.

Mr. Graber advised that when writing grants faculty should automatically include funding for research assistants that will be supported by such grants. One hundred percent funding through research grants is ideal. There is a need for more of the funding to be covered by research grants.

Dr. Puskas stated that the benefits are not excessive for graduate students. She has supported students 100% by grants but gets nothing in return.

Dr. Makki questioned Mr. Graber about what other institutions are doing.

Mr. Graber indicated that such data is not shared. He stated that Bowling Green State University is a client of Ruffalo Noel Levitz; however, he cannot provide information about that institution.

Dean Midha mentioned there is a listserv among the Chancellor's Council on Graduate Studies through which information can be gathered on what other institutions are doing and what policies are in place at those institutions. KSU, OSU, OU, and UC are on the RCM model.

Graduate Council members expressed that Mr. Graber did not provide any information which they did not already have.

Remarks – Charles Beneke, Associate Dean-Academics

Dr. John Goodell distributed a handout to Graduate Council members outlining concerns expressed by the College of Business Administration regarding changes to the Fulbright program at The University of Akron.

Associate Dean Charles Beneke shared the following in response to Dr. Goodell's inquiry about changes to Fulbright program.

- Students enrolled in Fulbright program since 1998.
- Fulbright covers costs, fees, and living expenses.
- Graduate School has historically provided tuition remission.
- On April 29, 2015, Dr. Rex Ramsier recommended no separate pool of funding for diversity, and the same recommendation was made for Fulbright students on May 1, 2015.
- There should be no granting of tuition awards to students that are not also receiving graduate assistantships.
- Graduate School must act in fairness to everyone.
- There has been no decision to discontinue the program; however, the Graduate School no longer provides tuition remission without an assistantship.
- Currently, there are 22 Fulbright students.
- Discussion related to the Fulbright program is already taking place at the CFO and Provost levels.

Graduate Council members discussed issues surrounding the Fulbright program, including how such a program can enhance the reputation of an institution, that some Fulbright students come from under-served populations, and the need for consistency in handling Fulbright scholars.

Dr. Puskas made a motion to develop a Fulbright policy for our campus that is consistent across all departments within the University.

Dr. Allen seconded this motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

Committee Reports and Referrals

Curriculum Committee – Dr. Allen presented a log of six proposals reviewed and approved by the committee: BUS-ACCOUNT-14-12423, BUS-FINAN-16-16717, CHP-NURIN-15-16031, CHP-NURIN-16-17243, CHP-SPLANG-16-18014, and CHP-SPLANG-16-18017. Approved by Council.

Graduate Faculty Membership Committee – Dr. Makki presented a log of six graduate faculty applications as reviewed and approved by the committee. There was discussion related to the scholarly activity cited on the graduate faculty application of Dr. Susan Kushner Benson. All applications were approved by Council.

Dr. Richard Londraville

Dr. Rolando J.J. Ramirez

Dr. Susan Kushner Benson

Dr. J. Alexis De Abreu-Garcia

Dr. Frederik Beuk

Dr. Abraham Joy

Meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather A. Blake
Graduate School