

**The University of Akron
Minutes of Graduate Council
September 17, 2018**

The Graduate Council met on Monday, September 17, 2018, in the Student Union, Room 310. Dean Chand Midha presided. Present were Dr. Wondimu Ahmed, Dr. Philip Allen, Mr. Charles Beneke, Ms. Heather Blake, Dr. George Chase, Dr. Todd Gaffke, Dr. R. Ray Gehani, Mr. Alec Gerrerd, Dr. Gary Holliday, Dr. Carolyn Murrock, Dr. Alex Povitsky, Dr. Coleen Pugh, Provost Rex Ramsier, Dr. Jina Sang, Dr. Martha Santos, Associate Dean Marnie Saunders, Dr. John Senko, Dr. Mark Soucek, and Dr. Baffour Takyi.

GC Members Absent with Notice: Dr. Amanda Booher, Dr. Francesco Renna, and Dr. Claire Tessier

Call to Order

Dean Midha called the meeting to order at 9:08 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 April 16, 2018. Dr. Takyi seconded the motion. Minutes of the April 16, 2018 meeting were approved without dissent.

Remarks – Dean Midha

Dean Midha welcomed the members of Graduate Council and asked each member to introduce him- or herself. He stated that when last Graduate Council met academic program review was still in progress. Since that time recommendations from the Faculty Senate were forwarded to the President and Provost for consideration then presented to the Board of Trustees in August. As a result, several programs have been suspended. Academic program review will continue as it is a requirement of HLC and CCGS. Dean Midha requested that Provost Ramsier attend this first meeting of Graduate Council to discuss academic program review.

Remarks – Provost Ramsier

Provost Ramsier stated that he looks forward to meeting with Graduate Council at the beginning of each year and welcoming the new members. Graduate Council is the executive committee of the graduate faculty and has a significant role in making recommendations to the Faculty Senate. In Fall 2016 the regular cycle of academic program review was delegated to Graduate Council. Academic review is going to start again in October. The most recent academic program review cycle is over, and the Board of Trustees has acted. There will be no consideration of bringing back any suspended programs. Provost Ramsier stated that academic program review is a formative process. He suggested moving to a six-year cycle with fewer programs reviewed each year. It is important to identify faculty to serve on the review committee, suggesting a committee size of approximately 12 individuals.

Dr. Povitsky inquired about the financial side of program review.

Provost Ramsier stated that program review is not about money, but, rather, what we do academically. Academic program review is about strategy. The University of Akron is the first institution in Ohio to take a step toward reducing duplication of programs. It is anticipated that other institutions will be begin doing the same.

Graduate programs are the most expensive, and funding from the Graduate School must be kept the same. Allocations go to the college deans. If a doctoral student graduates that money is available to be used in that academic department or reallocated to another within the college. Should a student graduate from a program that has been suspended that money will go into an escrow account in the Graduate School, and these dollars could go to a program that needs enhanced support at the discretion of the Provost. Money will be kept until a strategic plan is in place and the areas for investment have been identified.

Dr. Gehani questioned who is accountable for enrollment.

Provost Ramsier responded that colleges are responsible for recruiting students. The Graduate School does not have centralized recruiting.

Dean Midha added that marketing programs is a concern; however, it must be determined which programs should be marketed.

Dr. Povistky inquired who will teach undergraduates once doctoral students in Electrical and Biomedical Engineering graduate.

Provost Ramsier indicated that teaching assistants from other departments should be used to teach these undergraduates.

Dr. Gehani asked Provost Ramsier what he considered the current challenges being faced.

Provost Ramsier responded that the greatest challenge is lack of a strategic plan.

Dr. Chase stated that everything has to be on the table when considering this plan as many people are frustrated that their views are not being considered.

Provost Ramsier shared with Graduate Council members that there will be two presentations at the next Board of Trustees meeting in October, one on athletics and one on research. Mr. Nathan Mortimer will provide the financial report for each. Drs. George Chase and Phil Allen will provide the context on research, and the Director of Athletics will provide the context on athletics.

Dean Midha stated that whatever the format in which the presentations are given there must be some benchmark institutions. We provide our own data, but don't provide comparisons to other institutions.

Provost Ramsier suggested using the NSF report.

Dr. Soucek mentioned that he trains people for the local economy, but this is not captured anywhere.

Dean Midha responded that there is current discussion taking place in Columbus pertaining to the \$10 million from the state for doctoral subsidy, and many institutions are talking about this exact topic.

Dean Midha thanked Provost Ramsier for meeting with Graduate Council. The remainder of the agenda will be picked up at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Blake
Graduate School