

Date: Wednesday, October 19, 2016

Location: J. Ryan Building, Conference Room 204

Subject: Graduate Faculty Council (GFC) Meeting Minutes Summary

Attendees: Mary Anne Amalaradjou, David Atkin, Ronald Beghetto, Victoria Blodgett (Ex-Officio), Andrew Bush, Yongku Cho, Antonia Cordero, Steven Demurjian, Craig Denegar, Mary Anne Doyle, Valerie Duffy, Niloy Dutta, Kent Holsinger (Ex Officio), Matthew Hughey, Stefan Kaufmann, Lawrence Klobutcher, Barbara Kream (Ex-Officio), Charles Mahoney, George McManus, Erin Melton (sub for Eric Brunner), Barbara Parziale (Ex Officio – Secretary), Subhash Ray, Heather Read, Cristian Schulthess, Farhed Shah, Juliette Shellman, David Solomon, Tammie Spaulding, Matthew Stuber, Judith Thorpe, Anastasios Tzingounis, Mark Urban, Eduardo Urios-Aparisi, Timothy Vadas, Andrew Wiemer, Peter Zarrow, and Cyrus Zirakzadeh.

Absent: Kari Adamsons (sabbatical), Daniel Adler, Hector Aguila, Ivy Alexander, Janet Barnes-Farrell (sabbatical), Richard Bass, David Benson, Edna Brown (substitute), Eric Brunner, Audrey Chapman, Zhiyi Chi, Casey Cobb (sabbatical), Pamela Diggie, Maria-Luz Fernandez, Miguel Gomes, Jane Gordon, Mitchell Green, Mark Hamilton, Ashley Helton, Donyeil Hoy (GSS), Bryan Huey, Louise Lewis, D. Betsy McCoach, Lirio K. Negroni, Gary Powell, Lynn Puddington, Guillermo Risatti, Victoria Robinson, Gregory Semenza, Zeki Simsek, Michael Smith, Christina Sneed (GSS), David Stern, Jiong Tang, Chuanrong Zhang, and Qing Zhu.

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1. Agenda item number one (1) – Call to order. Moderator Mahoney called to order the regular meeting of the GFC for October 19, 2016 at 3:02 pm.
2. Agenda item number two (2) – Approval of Minutes. Moderator Mahoney introduced the minutes of the September 21, 2016 meeting of the GFC. There was a motion offered, which was seconded and the motion was adopted in favor by all members present. **Agenda item number two (2) was passed unanimously on a show of hands.**
3. Agenda item number three (3) – Report from Kent Holsinger, Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of The Graduate School.
  - Discussion is ongoing regarding the revisions to the graduate faculty status. Currently a faculty member must be a member of the GFC in order to serve as a Major Advisor. There are several more questions to be answered, such as:
    - Should the faculty member be tenured or on a tenure track?
    - Should appointments to the GFC be reviewed periodically? If so, reviewed by whom?
    - What would be the criteria for the rankings?
  - As previously discussed, The Graduate School catalog does not conform to NEASC rules regarding how many credits are required for a Master’s degree. NEASC requires thirty (30) credits. Currently The Graduate School is set at a minimum of twenty-four (24).
    - The change will not effect current students. New students beginning in fall 2017 will be required to have thirty (30) credits.
    - Who should decide how the additional 6 credits be designated; as thesis credits or coursework?
    - The Council was divided on how this should be determined. Each member will take the question back to their department for further discussion and will report back next month.
    - The GFC was comfortable with the current set up of the PhD program.

- Post-Doctoral student salaries need to increase to be in accordance with the Federal Fair Labor Act.
  - The Office of the Vice President for Research will supply the funds to make up the difference from December 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. After that it will be up to the PI.
  - OSP will check all budgets on outgoing proposals to make sure the salary for the Post-Doc meets the existing requirements.
  - Complications arise when Post-Docs are on a training grant, NSF, etc. because the system does not recognize them as employees like the unionized Graduate Assistants.
  
- 4. Agenda Item number four (4) – New business.
  - There is some misunderstanding about how the process for dismissing students for academic reasons from Grad programs is completed.
    - i. The Graduate School does not automatically dismiss students for academic reasons. The Grad School takes action only after the department notifies us that dismissal is necessary.
    - ii. Several ideas were discussed regarding how to make the process more responsive.
  
- 5. There was a motion offered for adjournment which was seconded and the motion was adopted in favor by all members present. The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 with 37 members present.
  
- 6. The next regular meeting of the GFC is scheduled for November 16, 2016 in Room 204 of the J. Ryan Building.