

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes
Mendenhall Student Center 244
October 21, 2013
2:00 - 4:00 pm

Members Present: Benfield, Rebecca; Bickley-Green, Cynthia; Cox, Kathy; Croskery, Thom; Donica, Denise; Eble, Michelle; Franklin, Richard; Greer, Annette; Harer, John; Keiper, Brett; Lamson, Angela McFadden, Cheryl; Monroe, Richard; Morehead, Andrew; Mott, Vivian; Pokorny, Marie; Preston, Ron; Ratcliff, Gail; Reaves, Rita; Ries, Heather; Schwager, Paul; Sprague, Mark; Thompson, Bob; Vogelsong, Hans;

Guests Present: Circ, Steve, McConnell, Tom, and Belinda Patterson

1. Call to order
2:11 PM
2. Welcome new members
Cheryl McFadden, Brett Keiper, Richard Dubrow Tech Systems
3. Approval of the 09/16/2013 GC minutes
Delete extra page
Approved
4. Approval of the 09/18/13 GCC minutes
None to be voted on at this time
5. Approval of 10/02/13 GCC minutes
None to be voted on at this time
6. Election of Graduate Council officers (Chair and Vice Chair) and Graduate Council Executive Committee members
 - Bob Thomson elected Chair
 - Annette Greer, Vice Chair
 - Executive Committee: Cheryl McFadden, Brett Keiper, Heather Ries, and Paul Schwager
7. Report: Doctoral program director meeting 10/04/2013
 - Directors did not agree with all of the changes made by the attorney

- Christy Walcott incorporated new language and documents were approved by the doctoral program directors

8. For Approval:

- a. Time limits for completing graduate programs
 - Add to the last paragraph: Requests submitted during the summer months may be handled by the GCEC and the committee's actions will be recorded for the Graduate Council's next meeting
 - Make titles of the form consistent with title of the form on the graduate school website (not program extension)
 - Approved
- b. Advancing to doctoral candidacy
 - Strike the last sentence in #3
 - Add at the end of the document: 'Final responsibility for successful advancement to candidacy lies with the student'
 - Approved
- c. Time extension request form
 - Revise spelling error on page 2 'graduate program'
 - Add thesis or dissertation advisor where appropriate
 - Approved

Take forms to GPD and ask for recommendations before bringing forms for approval to the Graduate Council

9. For Approval: Requests for GRE waiver

- a. MS Health Informatics and Information Management
 - Students that have completed the health informatics certificate with a 3.5 GPA or better to waive the GRE
 - Dr. Gemperline will ask program about best-practices of peer institutions
- b. MS Social Work
 - Allowed students to waive GRE with students with an undergraduate GPA with a 3.0 GPA or above
 - Dean Gemperline has not had a chance to review data and will follow up with a discussion with the School of Social Work
- Dr. Mitchelson's recommendation is to be careful with how standards by exception can be granted and set standard for waiver

- Recommendation to look at how peer institutions use exceptions
- Desire of the GC is to maintain high admission standards – credible requests on a case by case basis
- Add notes in database to track student outcomes

10. Announcements

a. Report: Faculty Mentor Awards

- Still waiting to hear from VC Mitchelson regarding funding
- Amount of discretionary funds for these purposes is low
- Qualtrics survey developed for nominated new awardees and should improve the process from last year
- Data automatically pulled for people being re-nominated
- Goal to get the request for nominations out in the next week
- Selection committee will then meet to consider nominees
- Continue award even without funding

b. Report: Plus/minus grading – survey of graduate faculty

- Polled graduate faculty via Qualtrics
- 49% not in favor, 40% in favor, 11% neutral
- Overwhelming majority at the GPD meeting voted to maintain the current system
- Approved Graduate Council reviewed and did not endorse the plus/minus system

c. Report: Thesis/Dissertation Approval Subcommittee Report

- Take suggestions to work into something more formal for the graduate manual
- Make form mandatory that is currently voluntary
- If majority adopt #3 as a best practice
- Having committee more involved will provide a higher quality product
- Come up with a pool of volunteers that could serve as an external reader
- Outside university to serve on committees but not as a reader
- Will come and revisit this issue at the next GC meeting

11. Meeting Adjourned

4:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Tripp

