

**Graduate Council  
January 26, 2015  
226 University Hall  
Meeting Minutes**

**Graduate Council Members Present:**

Roger Anderson, David Barker, David Bowers, Prosper Boyaka, Anne Carey, Josh Coy, Holly Dabelko-Schoeny, Candace Feck, Amy Ferketich, Rob Greenbaum, Joanna Groden, Michael Lisa, Cheena Srinivasan, John Walters

**Graduate School Staff Present:** Patrick Osmer, Scott Herness, Ann Salimbene, Kathleen Wallace, Jill Toft (recorder)

**A. Approval of Minutes**

Professor Boyaka called the meeting to order and asked for a review of the minutes from the October 27, 2014, Graduate Council meeting. Professor Carey said that she was present at the October 27 meeting but that had not been noted. Professor Boyaka said that the official record would be corrected. The minutes were then approved as amended.

**B. Business**

1. Dean Osmer began the meeting with a review of the topic “who should be able to advise graduate students.” He distributed a document that went to OAA leadership regarding requests for exceptions to the advising policy that have been received by the Graduate School. Because of the growing number of unusual appointments and situations, Dean Osmer felt this is an important topic that needs further investigation and discussion by both OAA leadership and council and suggested forming a working group to discuss the issue further. Council engaged in a brief discussion of the various types of unusual situations that are becoming more common and that might call for a different approach to graduate student advising policy. Professor Boyaka called for volunteers for a working group to discuss the issue. A working group will be formed.”
2. Dean Osmer reported on a request from the College of Pharmacy to suspend the graduate faculty status of a faculty member for one year. The request has been reviewed at the college level, and relevant material will be disseminated via e-mail. Dean Osmer asked that a meeting be convened to discuss the case before the next scheduled council meeting. Council will make a recommendation to the dean of the College of Pharmacy. Dean Osmer reminded the council that anything discussed via e-mail might be accessible to a wider audience and stressed the necessity of supporting materials for the decision.

**C. Announcements**

1. Dean Osmer reported that the Environmental Sciences and the Life Sciences Networks have been in existence for three years and that they are in the middle of a self-study at the direction of the provost. He said that the networks have been impacted by changes in funding due to the recession and the creation of Discovery Themes.

2. Dean Osmer reported that problems have occurred with the implementation of the new Graduate Admissions online application process resulting in problems with uploading letters of recommendation. There are fundamental issues in PeopleSoft that will require changes after the admissions season is over. Dean Osmer reminded council that the Graduate Admissions system is actually under the direction of the Office of Enrollment Services and not the Graduate School. He said that FAQs and work-arounds have been released in order to deal with some of the problems. Associate Dean Herness reported that despite the issues with the application system, there have been no reported problems with admitting students for fellowships. It was further reported that no applications had been denied because of problems with the new system.
3. The graduate studies committee chairs only meeting will be held on February 3, 2015, at the Blackwell, from 3:30-5:00 p.m. There will also be a graduate studies committee chairs orientation, specifically for new GSCCs, February 25, 2015, at the Faculty Club from 3:30-5:00 p.m. Assistant Dean Salimbene encouraged council members to attend.
4. Dean Osmer reported that James Grossman, executive director of the American Historical Association, has been invited to speak on February 17, 2015, at 3:30 p.m. in the Wexner Film/Video Theatre as part of the Graduate School's annual alternative careers event. He said there should be broad interest across the humanities for the topic.

D. Graduate Council Curriculum Committee Reports and Actions

- No reports at this time.

E. Other

1. Josh Coy, president, Council for Graduate Students (CGS), reported that according to data, the graduate minimum stipend recommendations for graduate students has not been increased to a comparable level with the peer institutions, despite the recent increases to Ohio State's minimum stipend levels. CGS recommends a three-year increase of \$1000/year to graduate assistants, in order to align levels with the cost of living in Columbus. Currently, one-third of the graduate assistants make less than \$16,000 per year and have approximately \$900 of out-of-pocket health insurance costs and fees. Mr. Coy said that he has discussed this with Provost Steinmetz who is considering the data. This proposed increase will move Ohio State to number three in benchmarking standards.
2. Mr. Coy discussed an e-mail he received regarding Student Health Insurance and graduate students' higher usage of insurance resulting in higher cost for graduate students than undergraduate students. This is a concern for Mr. Coy and the CGS. Assistant Dean Salimbene said that the Student Health Insurance committee has been discussing the issue and potential solutions. Discussion arose between Josh Coy and members of the council concerning the effects of the Affordable Healthcare Act and the implications of more graduate students opting to stay on their parents' insurance plan, thus raising costs further due to a reduced number of students in the pool.

3. Mr. Coy reported that currently birth parents receive six weeks of leave under Ohio State's Family Medical Leave policy (FML) and adoptive parents only receive three weeks of leave. CGS wants to increase the three weeks for adoptive parents to six weeks, to equal the amount given to birth parents. Mr. Coy indicated that the increase has the support of President Drake. CGS sought input on how to make this change happen at the Graduate School level. Dean Osmer requested that CGS provide council with documentation and information for the next meeting.
  
4. Mr. Coy reported that CGS has been made aware of issues with graduate associate appointments posting incorrectly for graduate students (particularly in Arts and Sciences) and students being told to pay the late fee and that they will be refunded after the issue is resolved. CGS would like it communicated that graduate students cannot afford to pay the fees when the issue is not their fault. Council suggested that when these issues arise, students be instructed to notify the Graduate School so that proper steps can be taken to rectify the situation.

Professor Boyaka adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.