

**Graduate Council  
February 17, 2014  
226 University Hall  
Meeting Minutes**

**Graduate Council Members Present:**

Prosper Boyaka, Anne Carey, Russell Fazio, Amy Ferketich, Sarah Lang, Michael Lisa, Jeff Parvin, Cheena Srinivasan, Carol Whitacre

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

**A. Approval of Minutes**

- Dean Osmer called the meeting to order and asked for a review of the minutes from the November 25, 2013, Graduate Council meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted.

**B. Announcements**

1. Dean Osmer gave an overview of the graduate studies committee chairs meeting that took place on February 5. He highlighted the agenda topics and said that Micky Sharma, director, Counseling and Consultation Service, reported on the strategies for working with students with Asperger's syndrome (autism spectrum disorder). Dean Osmer said that programs are increasingly facing student mental health issues and assured council that the university has offices and protocols for handling such cases.
2. Dean Osmer reported that he and Javaune Adams-Gaston, vice president, Office of Student Life, have completed the inventory of the career service offices and programs on campus and are looking at ways to coordinate delivery of the services to graduate students.

Assistant Dean Wallace gave an overview of the February 13 presentation by Ohio State alum Dr. Paula Chambers, at the event *You Are Versatile: Non-Academic Careers for PhDs*. Dr. Chambers is the founder of The Versatile PHD, a web-based resource that presents facts about the academic job market and the different career paths Ph.Ds. can take. The event was co-sponsored by the Office of Student Life-Career Connection and Buckeye Careers, the Office of Research, and the Ohio Union Activities Board. More than 190 graduate students, post-docs, faculty, and staff attended the program.

3. Dean Osmer reported that the Graduate School is transitioning away from paper forms to an electronic forms submission process for examination and graduation forms. He said that a pilot project with 12 graduate programs will help test the forms submission during summer term 2014 to adjust any remaining issues and to develop training materials.
4. Associate Dean Herness reported that the Graduate School fellowship awards have been made and posted to the Graduate School's Nomination System.

Two hundred and two nominations were received for the Graduate Enrichment Fellowship competition. The review committee awarded 12 two-year Dean's Graduate Enrichment Fellowships and 111 one-year Graduate Enrichment Fellowships.

Dean Herness said that 615 nominations were received for the University Fellowship competition. The distribution of awards was: 23 three-year Susan Huntington Dean's

Distinguished University Fellowships, 56 two-year Distinguished University Fellowships, and 218 one-year University Fellowships. In total, the Graduate School has awarded 534 fellowship years through its UF and GE competitions. Dean Herness also gave a data analysis of the competition based on gender, ethnicity, nationality, college, etc.

5. Associate Dean Herness reported that he is working with Jonathan Nutt, Assistant Director, Student Life Wellness Center, on the financial literacy grant awarded by the Council of Graduate Schools. He said that four Voluntary Income Tax Assessment (VITA) workshops are being scheduled to help graduate students get free tax information from qualified tax professionals. Details about the workshops will be forthcoming.
6. Dean Osmer invited council to attend the Graduate School Semester meeting on March 18 for department chairs, graduate studies committee chairs (GSCC), and graduate program coordinators. The meeting will be held from 3:30-5 p.m. in the Blackwell Ballrooms B&C.
7. Ms. Sarah Lang reported that the Edward F. Hayes Graduate Research Forum will be held on Friday, February 21, at the Ohio Union. Ms. Lang thanked the Graduate School and the Office of Research for co-sponsoring the event. Dean Osmer and Dr. Whitacre complimented CGS on their efforts to put on a professional event where graduate students can present their research to a non-specialist audience.

Ms. Lang also reported that some CGS representatives have expressed concern about the Graduate Interdisciplinary Specializations (GIS) in disability studies due to the loss of committed faculty in that particular program. She also said that, in general, there seems to be a lack of understanding about what the GIS programs are. Ms. Lang will write up her concerns and work with Associate Dean Herness on the issue.

8. Dr. Whitacre gave an update on some activities in the Office of Research and said that a request for proposals (RFP) for the next three discovery themes initiatives, i.e., emerging and re-emerging diseases, materials for a sustainable world, and food to improve health will be sent out on February 20.

### **C. Business**

1. Associate Dean Herness explained the changes being proposed to transition from the currently used SPEAK test to the Oral Proficiency Assessment (OPA) for the Certification of International Teaching Associates. Dean Osmer agreed that modernizing the testing process was appropriate to better serve the students, Graduate School, and the departments. The OPA is designed to assess and rate pronunciation, fluency, grammar, vocabulary, listening, communicative strategies, and elaboration skills in order to either certify students to serve as GTAs or to place them in required courses. Professor Srinivasan stressed the need to evaluate students in a timely manner. Dean Osmer said that there were minor details to work out with the OPA and that a final proposal would be voted on at the next meeting. He asked council to send him any comments and suggestions.
2. Dean Osmer reported that he had presented the emeritus faculty policy to the OAA Leadership group and would be making a presentation to the Council of Deans on February 18. He said that in response to a white paper written by the President and

Provost Advisory Committee (PPAC), Provost Steinmetz has asked him to work with Susan Williams and Carol Whitacre to take another look at the policy.

Dean Osmer said that emeritus faculty are a great resource to university research and education but there are several issues that must be worked out such as developing comprehensive rules to protect the interest of the students, identifying the steps to become an emeritus faculty, and determining what the formal and legal connection of retired faculty is to the university. Dean Osmer said that the Graduate School does not have the staff to appoint and track emeritus faculty, and that it will be incumbent on departments to take on this responsibility and address any negative outcomes.

Professor Srinivasan asked how serious the problem of emeritus faculty leaving students in the lurch has been and how many students have been negatively impacted. He also said that emeritus faculty are counted in the metrics that influence institutional rankings in some disciplines. Council acknowledged that the passions surrounding this topic are quite high and that faculty members' self-worth and egos are entangled in the issue. Dean Osmer said that council would have an opportunity to review any revised policy.

3. Dean Osmer reported that Professor Elizabeth Davis and Lynley Anderman have had to resign from council due to a medical leave and to a change in teaching responsibilities. Both members are scheduled to rotate off council at the end of spring semester. Dean Osmer asked council to send him recommendations on whether the members should be replaced or if council should proceed without their representation.

#### **D. Graduate Council Curriculum Committee Reports and Actions**

1. Proposal to create a Masters in Applied Economics graduate degree program
2. Proposal to create a professional doctoral degree in Occupational Therapy
3. Proposal to create two Environmental Sciences Graduate Interdisciplinary Specializations in Water and in Climate
4. Proposal to create a Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Comparative Literature
  - Associate Dean Herness separately explained the review and vetting process for each of the above proposals and answered questions from council members. Each of the proposals was voted on individually and were unanimously approved by the Graduate Council. The proposals will be forwarded to the Council on Academic Affairs for further processing.

Dean Osmer adjourned the meeting at 5:04 p.m.