

**Graduate Council**  
**December 4, 2017**  
**226 University Hall**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Graduate Council Members Present:**

Gunjan Agarwal, David Bowers, Kristy Browning, Kate Calder, John Freudenstein, Jane Hathaway, Alan Hirvela, Samuel Hodge, Marcus Kurtz, Mona Makhija, Chris Pierce, Scott Scheer, Jeff Walline, Alex Wesaw

**Graduate School Staff Present:** Scott Herness, Matt Page, Kathleen Wallace, Susan Reeser (recorder)

**A. Approval of Minutes**

- Professor Freudenstein, called the meeting to order and asked for a review of the minutes from the October 23, 2017, Graduate Council meeting. The minutes were approved.

**B. Business**

1. Interim Dean Herness explained the changes that were made to the policy in the *Graduate School Handbook* about the length of time Graduate Faculty Representatives (GFR) need to attend the final oral examination including revised wording stating that the GFR is not required to attend a public presentation (if one is required). Council members expressed concerns that the wording still wasn't clear enough for situations where a public presentation is part of the final oral examination and the GFR needs to attend. Council discussed possible ways to improve the language to make it more definitive and remove any possibility of ambiguity.

Dean Herness said that the Graduate School would take another look at the wording to see how it can be further clarified and have a final draft available for a vote at the next Graduate Council meeting.

2. Dean Herness reported that the Presidential Fellowship Review Committee awarded 24 presidential fellowships at their November 16 meeting.

**C. Curriculum Committee Reports and Actions**

1. Dean Herness explained the proposal to develop a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) and a Master of Public Health (MPH) combined (DDS/MPH) degree program that will prepare students simultaneously for the professional practice of dentistry and provide knowledge and skills in public health. Each of these two degree programs already exist and have been approved by applicable accrediting bodies.
  - Professor Freudenstein called for a vote and the proposal was unanimously approved by Graduate Council. It will be forwarded to the Council on Academic Affairs for further processing.
2. Dean Herness described the proposal to revise the Ph.D. and the MS in Consumer Sciences and to create a Specialization in Hospitality and Retail Management by redistributing core courses and credit hours across supporting courses. The proposal was approved by the faculty in Consumer Sciences and by the College of Education and Human Ecology Curriculum Committee.
  - Professor Freudenstein called for a vote and the proposal was unanimously approved by Graduate Council. It will be forwarded to the Council on Academic Affairs for further processing.
3. Dean Herness described the proposal from the School of Music to change the curriculum of the Master of Music in Piano Performance by increasing the minimum number of semester hours to 32 credits (from 30 credits) with the requirement of a concerto recital for 2 credits in addition to the solo recital that is considered the thesis. The proposed change will not lengthen the degree completion time.

- Professor Freudenstein called for a vote and the proposal was unanimously approved by Graduate Council. It will be forwarded to the Council on Academic Affairs for further processing.
4. Dean Herness explained the proposal to add a new Civil and Environmental Engineering track to the Masters of Global Engineering Leadership (MGEL) degree program. The new technical track will consist of four, three-credit hour courses or 12 credit hours total. The track was approved by the Civil and Environmental Engineering graduate program and the MGEL graduate studies committee.
    - Professor Freudenstein called for a vote and the proposal was unanimously approved by Graduate Council. It will be forwarded to the Council on Academic Affairs for further processing.
  5. Graduate Council discussed the two separate proposals from the Master of Global Engineering Leadership Graduate Studies Committee (MGELGSC) to allow a customized technical track in Integrated Systems Engineering for graduate students Robert Kaminski and for Arrianna Willis.

After discussing these two proposals, it was agreed that they should be sent back to the program because MGEL has the authority to develop and approve special tracks for individual students as prescribed in the September 2013 rules governing the MGEL program. Review by Graduate Council is not necessary because approval is done at the program level.

#### **D. Other**

Professor Walline asked what information programs can give to graduate students, who are becoming increasingly concerned, about the proposed tax reform bill that was passed by in the U.S. House of Representatives and includes a provision to tax the tuition waivers graduate students on appointment receive as income. The tax on tuition waivers would make graduate students' income look markedly higher on paper than it actually is and make graduate student taxes prohibitively expensive. Higher-education groups have fiercely opposed the proposed tax on tuition waivers, which appears in the House plan but not in the Senate version.

Mr. Wesaw reported on several Council of Graduate Students (CGS) grassroots demonstrations that have taken place on campus and at the State Capitol. He said that students who receive a \$30K stipend per year could be taxed as though they receive \$80K.

Council members inquired if the university is developing a contingency plan in case the tax is passed and graduate students need to withdraw from the university. Dean Herness said that the administration is taking a more constrained approach at this time and the response is being coordinated with the Office of Government Affairs. Dean Herness said that he will attend the Council of Graduate Schools annual meeting in December and will discuss the issue with the deans from the Big-10 institutions. He will report to Council about discussions taking place at the national level regarding this topic.

Mr. Pierce said that many students are cynical about the tax bill and the administration's response so far. He highly recommended that the Graduate School communicate what actions are being taken to influence a more satisfactory outcome for graduate students.

Professor Freudenstein adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.