

Graduate Council
January 23, 2017
Meeting Minutes

Graduate Council Members Present:

Kate Calder, Zak Foste, John Freudenstein, Rob Greenbaum, Joseph Guada, Alan Hirvela, Scott Scheer, Jeffrey Walline, John Walters, Rama Yedavalli, David Bowers

Graduate School Staff Present: Scott Herness, Ann Salimbene, Kathleen Wallace, Jennifer Schlueter, Susan Reeser (recorder)

A. Approval of Minutes

- Professor Greenbaum called the meeting to order and asked for a review of the minutes from the December 5, 2016, Graduate Council meeting. The minutes were approved.

B. Business

1. Interim Dean Herness reported that the Campus Conversation on Graduate Education Phase 1 committee had completed its report and that it would be ready for distribution following the addition of some participant demographic information.

Dean Herness reported that three working groups have been assembled to help stakeholders in graduate education (e.g., graduate faculty, students, coordinators, academic staff, employers, and alumni) engage in discussions about the top three topics (Professional Development, Diversity and Inclusion, and Funding Environment) that were identified by both faculty and graduate students during autumn semester. The working groups have received the general charge for the campus conversation to widely engage the stakeholders in data-based conversation on the three topics. In response to a question about what the incentive was to conduct this effort, Dean Herness said the incentive was to give the university a voice in the future of graduate education and to make a difference. Dean Herness said that Council is an important stakeholder in graduate education and invited members to join the working group discussions or to possibly schedule its own conversation.

Dean Herness said that the working groups will hold six workshops with stakeholders (two for each of the three topics) in early March to discuss and answer four top questions; 1) what we are talking about, 2) what is going on nationally, 3) what is taking place at Ohio State, and 4) where do we want graduate education to go in the next 5 to 10 years. A survey will be sent to the campus community in mid-April to get input from the stakeholders who aren't able to participate in the discussion meetings.

Dean Herness said that a concluding summit to present the findings from the working group discussions and survey will be presented on May 3. The results will be given to the Phase 2 Steering Committee who will produce a final report during summer semester. Dean Herness said that the final report isn't intended to resolve problems but instead will express a collective vision for the future of graduate education.

Dean Herness said he will speak at the Senate Faculty Council meeting on January 26 to inform faculty senators about the Campus Conversation on Graduate Education and the Graduate School's efforts to get input about issues facing graduate education.

C. Combined Curriculum Subcommittee Reports and Actions

1. Faculty Fellow Jennifer Schlueter reported on the proposal from the Department of English to create a new Graduate Minor in English. In response to the questions raised by the Curriculum

Subcommittee, Professor Schlueter explained the revisions made to the proposal and the rationale for the extensive list of electives. All concurrences for the proposal have been received.

- Professor Greenbaum asked for a vote and the proposal was approved by Graduate Council. It will be forwarded to the Council on Academic Affairs for further processing.
2. Professor Schlueter reported that the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Graduate Minor in Entomology had been approved in 2012 and was revising the curriculum for students enrolled in the graduate minor from related programs who are seeking more fundamental knowledge about insects and how to work with them. All students will be required to take a minimum of 10 credit hours of coursework, including one required course in general entomology, one entomology ‘critical thinking’ course, and the remainder of credits from elective courses with at least one elective at the 6000 level or higher.
 - Professor Greenbaum asked for a vote and the proposal was approved by Graduate Council. It will be forwarded to the Council on Academic Affairs for further processing.
 3. Professor Schlueter reported on the proposal to add course electives to the Graduate Interdisciplinary specialization in Demography (GIS-D) to attract more graduate students to the program. All concurrences for the program have been received.
 - Professor Greenbaum asked for a vote and the proposal was approved by Graduate Council. It will be forwarded to the Council on Academic Affairs for further processing.
 4. Professor Schlueter explained the proposal from the Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program, within the College of Medicine, to change the name of three of the areas of research emphasis (transcript designation) from Genetics to “Genetics and Genomics,” Molecular Basis of Disease to “Biological Chemistry,” and Biology of Neurological Disorders to “Neurological and Neuromuscular Disorders.” Each of the changes will bring the four sub plans in line with the names of the departments and the research being done in the College of Medicine. Council expressed concern about the name change from Molecular Basis of Disease to “Biological Chemistry” and said that concurrence was needed from the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry in the College of the Arts and Sciences to avoid confusion between the two programs.

Professor Schlueter will request the additional concurrence. Following receipt of the concurrence, the proposal will be sent to Council for an eVote before forwarding it to the Council on Academic Affairs for further processing.

D. Other

1. Professor Scheer reported that the Council subcommittee (Professors Calder, Kurtz, and Scheer, and Mr. Watson) to review the Graduate School’s guidelines for video conferencing had met one time and that the report may be available by the February 24 meeting.
2. Dean Herness invited Council to attend several Graduate School-sponsored meetings being held during spring semester: the Graduate Studies Committee Chairs meeting on February 2, in 140 Pfahl Hall; Council of Graduate Student (CGS) Hayes Graduate Research Forum on March 3, at the Ohio Union; Graduate School Semester meeting, March 28, Blackwell Ballrooms; and the Summit on Campus Conversation on Graduate Education, May 3, 8:30-12, Blackwell Ballrooms.

Professor Greenbaum adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.