

Graduate Council
February 27, 2017
Meeting Minutes

Graduate Council Members Present:

David Bowers Kate Calder, John Freudenstein, Rob Greenbaum, Alan Hirvela, Marcus Kurtz, Scott Scheer, Jeffrey Walline, John Walters, Rama Yedavalli,

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

Guests: Jennifer Schlueter, Tim Watson

A. Approval of Minutes

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

B. Business

1. Interim Dean Herness reported that the Council subcommittee (Professors Kate Calder, Marcus Kurtz, and Scott Scheer and Mr. Watson) that was convened to review the policy for video conferencing during master's and doctoral examinations had completed its work, had revised the policy, and were bringing it to the Council for discussion and a vote. He said that the Graduate School's current guidelines were created at a time when the technology was new and undependable but had become outdated due to improved video capabilities.

Professor Scheer and Mr. Watson gave an overview of the new policy saying that the most significant changes were 1) to allow that one member of the graduate student's committee (including advisor) can be at a distance without petitioning, 2) any deviation from the first guideline requires a petition and prior approval of the Graduate School except for student in fully online graduate program, and 3) all committee members including advisory and online students who are enrolled in a fully online graduate program can be at a distance.

Mr. Watson said that the revised guidelines shift the responsibility for compliance to the programs to insure that students are well advised about videoconference procedures and that the student is in agreement with an arrangement whereby a committee member is participating from a distance, especially when it's the advisor who is not on campus. Mr. Watson said that students are generally required to be on campus; however, if they are at a distance, then a proctor is needed except if it's an online program. The Graduate Faculty Representative should always be on campus.

- Professor Greenbaum called for a vote. The guidelines for videoconferencing were unanimously approved and will be updated in the *Graduate School Handbook*. Dean Herness said that the new policy will be announced in the Graduate School newsletter.
2. Dean Herness reported that the Graduate School would like Council to review the residency policy contained in Section 7.2.4 of the *Graduate School Handbook* and consider eliminating two of the three provisions of the doctoral residency requirements as a graduation requirement. The purpose of the residency requirements was to give students the chance to engage in concentrated study over an extended period of time with faculty members and other students in an atmosphere conducive to study and scholarly activity. The following requirements must be fulfilled after the master's degree has been earned or after the first 30 hours of graduate credit have been completed:

- 1) a minimum of 24 graduate credit hours required for the Ph.D. must be completed at this university
- 2) a minimum of two consecutive pre-candidacy semesters or one semester and a summer term with full-time enrollment must be completed while in residence at this university
- 3) a minimum of six graduate credit hours over a period of at least two semesters or one semester and a summer term must be completed after admission to candidacy

Mr. Watson said that current students meet these requirements naturally through the established Ph.D. process of enrollment and dissertation development and have no idea they are meeting any specific residency rules. The Graduate School is recommending that items 2 and 3 be considered as program guidelines only. Provision 1 of the policy should remain in place and be listed as a separate policy in Section 7.2 of the *Handbook*. Dean Herness said that Council would vote on the policy at the next meeting if it was felt that no further review or changes were needed.

The review of the residency policy prompted Council members to discuss the continuous enrollment policy that affects all students who have completed the doctoral candidacy examination and are required to be enrolled in every semester of their candidacy (summer term excluded) until graduation. Some Council members expressed confusion about why the policy was implemented and said that it places a financial burden on students and programs. Dean Herness explained the purpose of the policy and said that it helps keep students connected to their program and making progress toward completing their degree.

C. Announcements

1. Interim Dean Herness reported that the Campus Conversation on Graduate Education working groups will hold six faculty workshops with stakeholders, two for each of the three topics (Diversity & Inclusion, Funding Environment, Professional Development), from March 1-10 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. Workshops will also be arranged for Graduate School staff, graduate program coordinators, and graduate students.

Professors Elizabeth Stasny (Statistics) and Tamara Davis (Social Work) are developing a survey that will be sent to the campus community in mid-April to get input from the stakeholders in graduate education who aren't able to participate in the discussion meetings. They will also oversee the assessment of the data collection. Dean Herness reminded Council that a concluding summit will be presented on May 3 to present the findings from the working group discussions and survey.

2. Dean Herness reported that 702 nominations were received for the University Fellowship competition and 326 nominations were received for the Graduate Enrichment competition. He said that due to the invaluable work of the review committees, the Graduate School was able to make a total of 884 award years of fellowships to incoming students. The award breakdown is as follows: 32 two-year Dean's Graduate Enrichment Fellowships; 174 one-year Graduate Enrichment Fellowships; 42 three-year Susan Huntington Dean's Distinguished University Fellowships; 77 two-year Distinguished University Fellowships; and 366 one-year University Fellowships.

Dean Herness said that students have until April 15 to accept the fellowship offer and that the actual number of awards used won't be known until after April 17 when declinations and reallocations are made.

C. Combined Curriculum Subcommittee Reports and Actions

1. Faculty Fellow Jennifer Schlueter gave an overview of the proposal from the College of Public Health to make changes to the curriculum for the Health Services Management and Policy (HSMP) specialization in the Ph.D. in Public Health. She said that the program admits 2-3 students per year and has been endorsed by the curriculum subcommittee. The revised curriculum involves additional seminar credit and does not impact other programs or units.
 - Professor Greenbaum asked 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. Professor Schlueter explained the proposal to create a new graduate specialization in Dramatic and Arts-Based Research, Teaching, and Learning (DARTL) in Ph.D. and EdS in Teaching and Learning. All concurrences for the specialization have been received.
 - Professor Greenbaum asked 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. Professor Schlueter reported on the College of Nursing proposal to revise the Ph.D. in Nursing program. She said that the program was revised in autumn 2016 and was basically sound however, some minor coursework revisions were recommended to update and enhance the quality of the program. The proposed curricular changes represented less than a 50% change to the overall program.
 - Professor Greenbaum asked 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.

D. Other

1. Dean Herness reported that the Council of Graduate Students (CGS) will hold the Edward F. Hayes Graduate Research Forum on March 3, at the Ohio Union. CGS President David Bowers said that two faculty judges were still needed and that anyone interested should contact CGS Vice President Tracy Walterbusch. Dean Herness reminded Council about the Graduate School Semester meeting on March 28 in the Blackwell Ballrooms; and the Summit on Campus Conversation on Graduate Education on May 3, 8:30-12, in the Blackwell Ballrooms.

Professor Greenbaum adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.