

Graduate Council
October 31, 2016
226 University Hall
Meeting Minutes

Graduate Council Members Present:

Kate Calder, James DeWille, Zak Foste, John Freudenstein, Rob Greenbaum, Alan Hirvela, Marcus Kurtz, Laura Lisbon, Scott Scheer, Jeffrey Walline, John Walters, Rama Yedavalli, David Bowers

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

A. Approval of Minutes

- Professor Greenbaum called the meeting to order and asked for a review of the minutes from the September 26, 2016, Graduate Council meeting. The minutes were approved.

B. Business

1. Interim Dean Scott Herness reported on the plans to develop the Campus Conversation on Graduate Education. He said the goal for the effort is to create a unified vision for the future of the Graduate School and to prepare a document that will provide direction to the next leader. Ohio State graduate students, faculty, staff, external employers, and other stakeholders will have an opportunity to participate in the conversations which will take place in three phases:
 - Phase 1—Environment Scanning: Autumn Semester
Identify the three critically relevant questions facing graduate education through a survey and facilitator-led focus groups
 - Phase 2—The Campus-Wide Conversations: Spring Semester
Future and vision each question through evidence-based, faculty-led conversations
 - Phase 3—Synthesis: Late Spring/Early Summer Semester
Identify internal challenges, align with university strategic plan, and produce document

Dean Herness said that Graduate Council is a stakeholder in the process and will help lead the discussion about the vision for the Graduate School.

Dean Herness said that a survey had been sent to all 3,000 graduate faculty and to half of all graduate students to get their help in identifying the relevant issues facing graduate education at Ohio State. Four focus group (three faculty and one graduate student) meetings are being organized to review the survey responses and identify the top three topics that will be discussed during spring semester. Dr. Roland Loup, Ph.D., has been hired to serve as a facilitator for the campus conversations since the Graduate School cannot direct the discussions.

2. Dean Herness asked Council for their input on whether Category M and P Graduate Faculty membership should be reviewed. Currently only tenure-track faculty and research track faculty are eligible for appointment as Category M and P Graduate Faculty. Clinical faculty are eligible for appointment as Category M Graduate Faculty only. Category M

faculty can co-advise students along with a tenure track Category P faculty member but they can't be the sole advisor. Dean Herness said that the Graduate School occasionally receives petitions for exceptions to the rule to allow clinical faculty to hold Category P status. He asked Council if this policy should be changed or if exceptions should continue to be made on a case by case basis. Council discussed the current policy and determined that there aren't enough petitions to necessitate rewriting of the policy.

3. Dean Herness reported that, due to the large number of exceptions being requested (more than 100 each semester), the guidelines for video conferencing for the master's examination, the oral portion of the doctoral candidacy examination, and the final oral examination need to be revised. He said that video conferencing requests will most likely increase as technology connectivity continues to improve and more programs and courses are being taught wholly online.

Tim Watson, director, Graduation Services, reported that the current video conferencing guidelines were created to ensure the quality and fairness of exams at a time when its use was new and sometimes unreliable. Professor Lisbon said that if there are too many exceptions then the guidelines should be made clearer and that the Graduate School should set baseline rules and allow programs to institute stricter rules as needed. It was agreed that a subcommittee should be organized to review the policy and determine what the best practices are for using technology and if those practices can help standardize the rules. Professors Calder, Kurtz, and Scheer and Mr. Watson agreed to serve on a subcommittee to review the guidelines and will report back to council at a future meeting.

C. Announcements

1. Reported that Associate Professor Jennifer Schlueter, Theatre, has been hired as a faculty fellow to work on a temporary, part-time assignment to oversee the Graduate School's work with the curriculum and graduate program development.
2. Reported that the Presidential and Graduate Enrichment Fellowship Review committees are set for the 2017 competitions and that only five additional members are needed to complete the University Fellowship Review committee.
3. Assistant Dean Ann Salimbene reported that the guidance published by the Departments of Labor and Health and Human Services and the Treasury regarding plans to eliminate the student health care subsidy for graduate associates (GAs) on appointment in 2017 has been put on indefinite hold. The Graduate School, Human Resources, Legal Affairs, and Student Health will continue to meet to develop a draft plan in case this issue needs to be addressed at some future time.

D. Combined Curriculum Subcommittee Reports and Actions

- Professor Lisbon reported on the proposal to create a new, three-year Master's Degree in Contemporary Art & Curatorial Practice. She explained the review and vetting process for the degree and said that the proposal had been in the development for over a year and is now well planned out. The proposal has been approved by the College of the Art and Sciences and draws on Ohio State's practicum expertise and internship training. 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.

E. Other

- Professor Kurtz asked why the Doctoral Quality Initiative (DQI) fellowship program incentive was being phased out.

Dean Herness reported that the DQI were dedicated fellowship funds associated with the Graduate School's 2008 Doctoral Assessment review and that these funds are being repurposed to the general fellowship funds. He said that in the 2008 Doctoral Assessment, programs designated as high-quality or strong were awarded funding to increase each of their fellowship recipient's stipends by \$3000. An additional doctoral assessment was to have taken place in 2013 but that review never occurred. The initiative was deemed outdated and was viewed as holding programs back. The Graduate School does not have the ability or the staff to undertake another such review.

Dean Herness said that with Provost McPheron's approval, the DQI funds are being repurposed to increase all Graduate School fellowship stipends by \$3,000 and will level the playing field for all graduate programs. He said that the Graduate School will continue to honor its commitments to all existing fellowship students in the DQI programs and that changes will only affect new students receiving fellowships in the 2017 competition. Dean Herness said that additional communications will be provided to programs on the DQI phase out.

Professor Greenbaum adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.