

**Graduate Council**  
**September 14, 2015**  
**226 University Hall**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Graduate Council Members Present:**

David Bowers, John Freudenstein, Rob Greenbaum, Andrea Grottoli, Joseph Guada, Michael Lisa, Laura Lisbon, Hajime Miyazaki, Guyomar Pillai, Scott Scheer, Suzanne Shoger, Cheena Srinivasan

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

A. Interim Dean Scott Herness began the meeting by welcoming the new and continuing Graduate Council members. He thanked Council for their willingness to serve on this advisory group to the Graduate School.

**B. Election of Chair**

- Interim Dean Herness reported that each year a returning council member is offered the opportunity to chair the meetings. He said that Professor Cheena Srinivasan had agreed to be considered for this position for 2015-2016. Dean Herness asked council if any other members wished to serve in this capacity. After discussion, members voted unanimously for Professor Srinivasan to serve as chair.

**C. Approval of Minutes**

- Professor Srinivasan called the meeting to order and asked for a review of the minutes from the April 20, 2015, Graduate Council meeting. The minutes were approved.

**D. Curriculum Committee Reports and Actions**

- Interim Dean Herness explained the background and responsibilities of the Curriculum Committee and the rigorous review process it undertakes to vet proposals from programs for curricular and name changes or to create new master's and Ph.D. degrees or interdisciplinary specializations. Faculty Rules govern the curricular review process and depending on the proposal, the review chain includes: the college, Curriculum Committee/Graduate Council, and Academic Affairs/Council on Academic Affairs (CAA). Some proposals for new degrees need further review by the University Senate, Board of Trustees, and the Ohio Board of Higher Education Chancellor's Council on Graduate Studies (CCGS), (formerly called the Ohio Board of Regents' Regents Advisory Committee on Graduate Studies (RACGS)), before final approval.

Dean Herness reported that a proposal was endorsed by last year's Graduate Council to change the Curriculum Handbook and University Rules to streamline the curriculum review process to reduce the workload and time to approval. The streamlined process will combine the entities that make up the two subcommittees (Graduate School/Graduate Council and Academic Affairs/Council on Academic Affairs) into a single subcommittee that will review proposals for both.

The new committee will consist of six faculty members and two graduate students. Three faculty will be appointed by the Graduate School in coordination with the Graduate Council and three faculty will be appointed by the Office Academic Affairs in coordination

with the Council on Academic Affairs. The two students will be appointed by the Council of Graduate Students. Dean Herness said that the new arrangement will be piloted for one year and asked for volunteers to serve on the committee so they could then report back to council on committee actions. Ms. Shoger volunteered to serve as one of the students members. Professor Srinivasan said that council could take several days to think about making a commitment to serve on this committee.

#### E. New Business

- Interim Dean Herness reported that Academic Affairs is reviewing the possibility to expand and standardize the certificate programs at Ohio State. Certificate programs are used to provide students advanced skills in a particular subject or area of specialization at the master's or post-master's degree level to supplement work for advanced degrees or to further professional preparation. Currently at Ohio State, certificate programs are not free-standing programs and students pursuing certificates must be enrolled in a master's or doctoral degree program. Dean Herness said that graduate certificate programs must go through the same review process as that for a new degree program and that forming free-standing certificate programs would give the university an opportunity to expand enrollment and generate revenue for programs.

Dean Herness gave examples of the large numbers (20+) of certificate programs being offered at peer institutions and said that Ohio State also has many certificate programs but only one graduate certificate program offered by the Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies (CMRS). Council will be looking at what the requirements are at peer institutions, minimum criteria, tuitions rates, and how to avoid duplication of credits, etc.

Professors Freudenstein, Greenbaum, and Srinivasan agreed to serve on a subcommittee to investigate this issue and will report back to council at the October 26 meeting.

#### F. Updates – Interim Dean Scott Herness

1. Reminded council that Patrick Osmer stepped down from his position as Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate School effective August 31 to return to the faculty in the Department of Astronomy and to serve as senior adviser to the leadership of the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST) project and the consortium based in Tucson and in Chile. The Office of Academic Affairs has announced that there will be an internal review of the Graduate School headed by Vice Provost Mike Boehm. Following the review there will be a national search to find a successor to Dean Osmer.
2. Reported that after the self-study of the Environmental Sciences Network and the Life Sciences Network, it was decided to discontinue the Networks. Provost Steinmetz is convening an initiative, headed by former Veterinary Medicine Dean Lonnie King, to develop plans for how best to support collaborative multidisciplinary research at Ohio State and how to manage the interdisciplinary graduate programs that had rolled up under the networks. Currently, the IGP programs (Ohio State Biochemistry Program, Biophysics, Environmental Sciences, and Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology, Neuroscience) are being overseen by the Graduate School until the future direction is determined.

3. Assistant Dean Salimbene informed council that the *Graduate School Handbook* had been updated for autumn 2015 and is on the Graduate School website. She explained the plans to change the May and Summer Terms into three, 4-week sessions and could have up to four different deadline dates. Dean Salimbene said that the *Handbook* will need to be revised once the session lengths have been decided and the nomenclature is confirmed.
4. Assistant Dean Wallace reported that the Graduate School has contracted with an outside vendor called Bonfire Red to redesign of the Graduate School's website. She said that this is the first redesign in five years and that the goal is to improve functionality for students, faculty and staff while elevating the visibility of the Graduate School and graduate education at Ohio State.
5. Dean Herness reported that the fellowships associated with the Summer Research Opportunities Program was renamed the Patrick S. Osmer SROP Fellowship to honor Dean Osmer's commitment to improving diversity in the Graduate School and at Ohio State. One of Dean Osmer's first initiatives was to hire Cyndi Freeman, a national leader in diversity initiatives and graduate student recruitment, to direct the SROP program, which has become a signature diversity recruitment program for Ohio State. SROP encourages high achieving underrepresented undergraduate students to pursue doctoral and master's degrees at Ohio State. This academic year, eight former SROP participants are being funded with a Patrick S. Osmer SROP Fellowship.
6. Dean Herness invited council to attend each of the two upcoming Graduate School meetings. The October 1 meeting will be held for Graduate Studies Committee Chairs (GSCC) only to give faculty in this position the tools and personal attention they need to mentor and advise graduate students in their programs. This meeting will be held in the Blackwell Ballrooms B&C from 8:30-10 a.m.

The Graduate School semester meeting on November 19 for department chairs, GSCC, and graduate program coordinators is designed to provide a general overview of new initiatives, policies, and directives. This meeting will be held from 8:30-10 a.m. in the Blackwell Ballrooms B&C.

Professor Srinivasan adjourned the meeting at 4:14 p.m.