

**UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES**

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Linfield 214

Council in Attendance:

Ahmed Al-Kaisy (Engineering)

Ann Ewbank (Education)

John Borkowski (Sciences)

Jean Shreffler-Grant (Nursing)

Christopher Livingston (Architecture)

Fabian Menalled (Agriculture)

Mary Miles (Health & Human Development)

Michael Babcock (Faculty Senate)

Tim LeCain (Letters)

Karlene Hoo (The Graduate School)

Marc Giullian (Business)

Also in Attendance:

Amanda Brown (The Graduate School)

Lauren Cerretti (The Graduate School)

Megan Prettyman (International Programs)

Absent:

Meeting started at 2:04 pm

March 30, 2016 minutes

- Livingston moves, Ewbank second, unanimous pass.

Announcements

- **Update from Faculty Senate (Babcock)**
 - Franke Wilmer from Political Science is chair elect for next year and will attend UGC in 2016/17.
 - Withdrawing Graduation Application—have not reviewed yet
- **Update on Admissions/Retention Task Force (Hoo)**
 - Survey sent to department heads and results analyzed
 - 32 of 33 departments responded
 - MSU is second to last in the number of PhD students graduated compared to peer institutions
 - 31% of departments offer incentive to advise graduate students
 - 78% of PhD students admitted come—high rate compared to peers
 - MSU grad student stipends near mean in OSU database (only 7 peers in database); overall within 96% of overall mean. Six departments below an “80% mean”
 - Peer institutions offer “packages”—tuition remission, stipends, health benefits—state universities almost never cover university fees
 - Many definitions of “full time graduate student”: 6 credits for loan deferment, 12 according to OCHE. These definitions affect how tuition remission is perceived and processed.
 - On average, the ratio of PhD to Tenure/Tenure-track faculty is 1.5: 1. Not all Tenure/Tenure-track faculty in a given department conduct research (some strictly teach, others are extension faculty, and so forth).

- Personal recruitment and network were the most successful practice for recruitment.

Old Business

- Optional Grad Rep policy
 - Revisions from Faculty Senate on optional policy (handout)
 - Faculty Senate approved revisions on 3/9/16
- IIP proposal reviewed by Deans Council
 - Opinion split
 - Some departments felt this proposal would hinder development of PhD programs in their own departments
 - Felt funding was not clearly addressed among the participating departments.
 - Felt that The Graduate School should instead invest in current graduate programs
 - American studies was pointed out as an interdisciplinary degree program that was underfunded. It has a narrower focus than the proposed IIP.
 - Emphasized that only doctoral granting departments should “house” the IIP student and be the committee chair on the doctoral committee
 - IIP appears to be a threatening proposal; perhaps now is not the time to propose the IIP even though there is support for it (see FS vote)
 - Dean Hoo asks UGC to think on the issue and at next meeting vote to table (or not) the proposal.
 - Chair LeCain asks UGC to take another look at proposal for a discussion at 4/27 meeting.

New Business

- PhD Enhancement Funds
 - Recommendations and discussion regarding merit and quality of proposals
 - Dean Hoo asks council to send all their comments to her directly via email
 - Q: does UGC want to eliminate this program? Not a large amount of proposals; few quality proposals received.
 - Chair LeCain suggests reviewing evaluation criteria and the call for proposals.
 - Suggestion: could a person from a successful department visit with other departments to spread info about benefit?
 - Q: should we share info with grad students? Could create pressure within departments to apply.
- Transfer of credits posted to a Certificate from another institution
 - Reviewed question
 - Will discuss at next meeting

Committee Reports

- **Policy and Procedures Committee**
- **Curriculum Committee**
- **Governance Committee**

Chair LeCain adjourned at 2:57 pm

Next scheduled meeting– April 27, 2016