MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL OF THE
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES

September 26, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

Graduate Council Chair William F. Tate, Dean of the Graduate School, called the meeting to order 4:00 p.m. in the
Danforth University Center, Room 276. Approximately 58 graduate students and faculty members attended.

I. Welcome and Introductions
Introductions of Graduate Council representatives by name and department were completed.

II. Consideration/Approval of the Minutes
The Graduate Council reviewed and approved the minutes of its April 21, 2016 meeting as it was presented.

III. Dean’s Report
Dean Tate opened his report by commenting on strategic planning initiatives. During the previous academic year, students voiced a need for diversity training to promote inclusive classrooms. This has been accomplished and is being implemented with teaching assistants. For more information or access to the training module, contact Dean Diana Hill Mitchell.

Additionally, two new certificate programs have been proposed (agenda items 8 & 9). The Humanities department was awarded a planning grant to re-evaluate the degree programs and requirements. Contact the committee for more information. Dean Tate commented that the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research developed the New Child Leave Policy (agenda item 5) to re-align the University with NIH policy regarding parental leave with a new child.

Dean Sheri Notaro reported that the Chancellors Fellowship Program is currently planning the 25th Anniversary Celebration and Alumni Reunion, which is scheduled for October 13-15, 2016. The keynote speaker will be Imani Perry, the Hughes-Rogers professor of African American studies at Princeton University. More details are available on the website.

Dean Tate reported that with the previous credit system it had been impossible to accommodate student requests for acquiring a separate master’s degree as a part of PhD level education. With the revised policies that modified credit requirements and credit limits, the conversation can begin to identify possible master’s level opportunities for PhD students that could be accessible across departments. Dean Tate commented that adding master’s degree opportunities could add value to the University by helping students to be more competitive when developing their career.

Dean Tate reported that regulatory functions for student unionization changed for private Universities over the summer. The first meeting to discuss this with students is scheduled for 10/5/16. Meetings with faculty will occur subsequently and urged Graduate Council members to participate in this process.

IV. Report of Graduate Student Senate Co-Presidents
Graduate Student Senate (GSS) Co-Presidents Donny Gerke, a PhD student in Social Work, and Toshi Miyatsu, a PhD student in Psychological and Brain Sciences, presented the report of the GSS.

GSS updates:

- Outstanding Faculty and Staff Awards is planned for Spring 2017. More details regarding nominations and ceremony will be provided at future meetings.
• The Graduate Symposium will continue this year to offer opportunities to students to present to others outside of their field. More details at future meetings.
• The Welcome BBQ was hosted in the Social Work building at the beginning of the semester. 425 people attended. The GSS worked with office of sustainability and reduced waste by ~ 80%.
• The call for applications for the Graduate Student Travel Award closed yesterday. This year they are offering a total of 6 awards for $500, with applications and awards being offered in the Fall and Spring semesters.
• A new committee was approved by the GSS for graduate students with children in September, 2016.

V. New Child Leave Policy

William Clark presented the New Child Leave Policy.

Current graduate student policy allows for 34 working days (nearly 7 weeks) for leave following a new child. Previously, Washington University maintained policy that was more progressive than NIH standards. However, these standards are not in line with current policy. The recommendation is for child leave to be adapted to extend leave for either parent for up to 8 weeks. Questions that need to be addressed are whether this update would be retroactive to all current students, or only apply to incoming students. Additionally, it needs to be decided if the updated leave policy would apply to all graduate students or only those affected, receiving NIH funding. Professor William Clark indicated that providing this updated policy to all students would be appropriate. Stipends would be provided by the individual programs or schools as appropriate.

A student asked if both parents could take leave at separate times. Professor Clark clarified that both parents may take leave, but this specific question needs to be discussed further, but that leave should be extended from 34 to 60 days. Another member asked how many students are affected by this and how are they funded. It was clarified that the stipend is typically covered by the school in which the degree program resides. A professor asked how this would impact students that are currently teaching a class. Dean Tate clarified that this would be generally understood that students that are preparing to have a child would receive accommodations and would prepare in advance accordingly with their department. A student asked if there would be a difference between fellowship and teaching assistants and it was clarified that fellowship students would also have the 60-day leave policy. Another question was raised about funding, since grants are not able to cover stipends for students on leave. Dean Tate stated that in previous instances, the Graduate School subsidized this cost and it is expected that the University continue to fill this gap. It was suggested that funding come from a central location to support students on leave, since some mentors may be cautious of taking on students of child-bearing age. Dean Tate stated that the Provost would have to approve a central funding mechanism and this suggestion could be discussed within individual programs and proposed. Any comments/questions should be submitted to William Clark.

VI. Consideration/approval of the list of the candidates for advanced degrees

The Graduate Council reviewed and approved the candidates for advanced degrees as it was presented.

VII. Action to approve new graduate courses

Dean Pat Howard presented new graduate course offerings. The list of new graduate courses was sent to members of the Graduate Council prior to the meeting.

The Council reviewed and unanimously approved the list with a modification made to reflect the deletion of a paragraph that was duplicated in a different course.

VIII. Social Science Quantitative Research Certificate Proposal

Dean Tate initiated the conversation and clarified that all new certificate programs must be submitted to Dean Tate first. All certificates have an advisory committee.

Lori Markson presented the SSQR Certificate that was sent to the Graduate Council prior to meeting.

Deanna Barch coordinated this certificate for students in the social sciences who would like more in depth quantitative training beyond that of the PhD curriculum. It includes five courses that go beyond current degree requirements but may
overlap with current coursework. Graduate students in social sciences can apply to obtain this additional certificate. Coursework would include quantitative design, inferential reasoning, probability and statistics. There would be 2 required classes and 3 selected by the individual and mentor from a list of approved courses. Students would graduate with a certificate in quantitative data analysis in social sciences.

A professor raised a concern that the statistics department is already large, and who would be teaching these students? Lori Markson clarified that students would be enrolled in already existing courses. Dean Tate stated that department representatives from all courses listed in the certificate proposal had input.

The Graduate Council reviewed and unanimously approved the certificate for Social Science Quantitative Research as it was presented.

**IX. DASH Data Science in Humanities Certificate**
Joe Loewenstein presented the DASH Certificate that was sent to the Graduate Council prior to meeting. The DASH certificate would include coursework in a variety of fields and often include a summer workshop and TA opportunity in the humanities.

It was asked how this would be funded. It was clarified that the summer workshop is funded by fellowships through grants, the Graduate School and the library. The TA opportunity is funded through the PhD programs.

The vote on the policy yielded the following result: Yes: Approximately 57; No: 0; Abstentions: 1

**X. Collaborative Research Efforts with the Library**
Aaron Addison reported that he will be serving as the library representative at future Graduate Council meetings. He reported that the library is focusing on collaborative research between students, education and research faculty with the aim to help students operationalize research by connecting people to relevant resources like research data services and data management planning. Other library offerings include support while writing grants, support with data management and collection as well as data analytics and preservation. Contact Aaron Addison for more information. You can also connect through your subject librarian who is able to meet for 1:1 consultations and point to relevant workshops that are available throughout the semester.

**XI. User Space Planning and Campus Liaison to Library**
Sarah Laaker presented updates about the library. She is overseeing the renovation of the Olin Library. They are supporting space for exhibition, study and storage. Some collections will be moving from West Campus to Olin. Previous timeline has been extended to Spring 2018 because of unforeseen challenges with construction due to a rock layer that was not identified previously. Contact Sarah Laaker with any questions. Email address available in meeting handouts provided prior to meeting.

**XII. Teaching Center Programs and Services for Graduate Students**
Michelle Repice reviewed offerings for students to support teaching, professional development and career building opportunities. The Teaching Citation is co-administered by the Graduate School and requires 3 semesters serving as a TA. The STEM program supports students interested in teaching STEM topics. Last year 1200 students attended Teaching Center offerings and 65 completed a Teaching Center program. These programs continue to grow, and have space for more growth this year. A new program is targeted as a preparation in pedagogy for graduate students that cannot TA for 3 semesters, but want to demonstrate that they have done something to grow in their capacity as an educator. In addition, the Teaching Center offers consultations and individual meetings to work on teaching statements and portfolios. GSS requested that Teaching Center be more proactive in reaching out to students to let them know about the resources available, which will become apparent this semester.

It was asked if all programs offered on Danforth campus and it was clarified that the majority are offered on the Danforth campus, however there are periodic offerings on the medical campus.

**XI. New Business**
There were no announcements or new business items.
XII. Adjournment

Dean Tate adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Hoyt Drazen, Rehabilitation and Participation Science, Occupational Therapy
Recording Secretary to the Graduate Council 2016-17