

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL
OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
April 6, 2018 at 4:00 PM**

Graduate Council Chair William F. Tate, Dean of the Graduate School, called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm in the Women's Building, Formal Lounge. Approximately 60 graduate students and faculty members attended.

I. Welcome

Dean Tate welcomed everyone.

II. Consideration/approval of the minutes of the February 6th, 2018 meeting

The minutes from February 6, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously.

III. Dean's Report

Dean Tate thanked all in attendance for serving on Graduate Council and highlighted:

- Thanks to the staff of the Graduate School for helping compile student data and identify trends in the data.
- Announced subsidized dental insurance and lowered out of pocket maximum for medical insurance as well as improved new child policy
- New mental health representative for graduate and professional students in Seigle Hall
- Increase in graduate student housing to come as the Board of Trustees approved renovation of the Lewis Center. Additionally, other opportunities for graduate and professional housing are on the drawing board.
- Increase in stipends and financial assistance for graduate students. Currently, 90% of students are receiving 11 month stipends, as of last week 100% of students will receive this additional month of funding.
- A new task force will examine the current graduate student experience at WashU compared to that of other institutions. This task force will write a report and present their findings at a Graduate Council meeting this fall. Task force will be chaired by Dean Ashley Macrander.

IV. Report of Graduate Student Senate Co-Presidents

Graduate Student Senate (GSS) co-presidents Tabbetha Bohac, PhD Student in Chemistry, and Marina P. Gross, PhD student in Psychological and Brain Sciences, presented the Graduate Student Senate's Strategic Action Plan:

- GSS thanked the Graduate School for its continued support. GSS was especially thankful for subsidized dental insurance and the lowered out-of-pocket maximum for the 2018-2019 academic year, the continued support for the Outstanding Faculty and Staff Awards, expansion of personnel dedicated to graduate students' career services, and the Liberman Graduate Center and Staff!
- The top six areas of recurring concerns for the graduate student community are: (1) increase in awareness of graduate student resources, (2) improvement of graduate students' financial livelihoods, (3) continued and increasing graduate student representation on all hiring committees for positions at the university that affect graduate students, (4) an increased awareness of all religious holidays, (5) a data-driven approach to identify areas where the WashU graduate student experience lacks compared to other institutions, and (6) a need for continued transparency and collaboration with the Graduate School.

V. Consideration/approval of the list of candidates for advanced degrees, May 2018

Dean Tate presented the list of candidates for advanced degrees, May 2018.

Yes: approx. 60 No: 0 Abstain: 0

VI. Teaching and Professional Development Committee Report

Committee Chair Professor Lori Markson from Psychological and Brain Sciences, presented on a professional development survey sent to all departments (most participated). The survey asked Directors of Graduate Study and graduate students what types of programs and support should be offered related to career and professional development. Program requests included: non-academic job search support, more direct connection to employers, alums and invited guest speakers from different industries/job types, additional skill-building opportunities, more faculty involvement in supporting career development, earlier conversations and planning around career development, and internship opportunities and data on outcomes and career trajectories of program alums. Students and faculty said the following were very important: graduate student-specific career fairs, career interest peer groups, employer info sessions, internships and U College courses on specialized skills. Thi Nguyen and Michelle Repice will be contacting the DGS in each discipline to discuss the specific needs in each area.

VII. Transition from Blackboard to Canvas

Vice Provost Marion Crain, who chaired the Teaching & Learning Domain Committee, presented on the transition from Blackboard to Canvas. The committee pilot tested both Canvas and Schoology against the current platform, Blackboard. Ninety-two percent of respondents preferred Canvas out of the three platforms. Canvas will be implemented Fall of 2018 by early adopters and by Fall 2019, there will be a complete adoption of Canvas. For the Fall 2018 semester, both Blackboard and Canvas will be available.

VIII. Graduate Student Teaching Orientation

Denise Leonard, Associate Director for Graduate Student and Postdoc Programs in the Teaching Center, announced the dates of the two university-wide graduate student teaching orientations, Wednesday, August 15th on the medical campus and Wednesday, August 22nd on the Danforth campus. Students can attend either day. This orientation is mandatory for graduate students serving as assistants in instruction for the first time during the 2018-2019 academic year. All students that must attend will receive an email with additional details in May. Feel free to get in contact with Denise Leonard via email or phone with any questions.

IX. Adjournment

Dean Tate adjourned the meeting at 4:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Tabbetha Bohac, Chemistry

Recording Secretary to the Graduate Council 2017-18