



THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Approved
9-27-16

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

April 21, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

Graduate Council Chair William F. Tate, Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost for Graduate Education, called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. in the Women's Building Formal Lounge. Approximately 61 graduate students and faculty members attended.

I. Consideration/Approval of the Minutes

The Graduate Council reviewed and approved the minutes of its February 9, 2016 meeting as presented. Dean Tate thanked Simone Pflieger for her work recording and writing up Graduate Council minutes throughout 2015-16.

II. Consideration/approval of the list of the candidates for advanced degrees, May 2016

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

III. Action to consider and approve new graduate courses

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 as presented.

IV. Dean's Report

Dean Tate opened his report by reminding the Council members that the Graduate School's Hooding and Recognition Ceremony will take place on May 19 at 4pm in the Varsity Gym in the Athletics Complex. The new policy that requires students to complete all degree requirements prior to the Hooding Ceremony will be enforced starting next year.

The Graduate School Orientation will be held on August 22; location is to be announced later.

The housing survey is complete with an unusually high number of participants. Based on the results, the Graduate School will make recommendations to University housing offices. Quadrangle Housing undertook renovations of their buildings which are now ready to be leased. The survey also revealed that over a third of students want to have more information about housing options, which the Graduate School hopes to provide in the future.

The ballot for the next year's executive committee will go out in July.

Dean Tate reported on an inquiry by a colleague regarding the GRE. It is listed as a requirement on the website of the Graduate School, but the Graduate School does not report the scores to any other office. Since it is a historical requirement and the predictive validity is not robust across disciplinary fields, Dean Tate suggested that programs should have conversations about the appropriate admissions metrics. Proposals for changes in admission requirements should be sent to Dean Tate.

V. Report of Graduate Student Senate Co-Presidents

Graduate Student Senate (GSS) Co-President Pierre Haenecour, a PhD student in Earth & Planetary Sciences, presented the report of the GSS. Co-President Nisha Iyer, a PhD student in Biomedical Engineering, was unable to attend the Council meeting. Dean Tate acknowledged Pierre and Nisha for their outstanding service as co-presidents of the GSS.

GSS updates:

- The Annual Graduate Research Symposium yielded a total of over 70 abstract submissions this year. It took place on February 23 in Bauer Hall Atrium. The decision to hold it on a weekday improved the attendance.
- The Outstanding Faculty and Staff Awards was a very successful event. This year's winners were selected from nominations that were read by all the Senators.
- The Annual Diversity Forum took place in the Center for Diversity and Inclusion in Olin Library on April 14. This was a great way to bring together all graduate student groups to identify a more unifying program regarding issues of diversity. An official report will follow soon.
- Graduate Citings is a new web page linked to the Graduate School website to promote graduate student discovery and publications, and to share non-technical abstracts.
- The new GSS Travel Awards yielded over 80 applications. All Senators judged the applications and selected 5 winners. The funding was provided by the GSS, the GPC, and the Graduate School.
- The survey about travel funding revealed that there are great differences in the availability of funding. About 66% of grad students pay part of the amount they need to participate in conferences and other professionalization events out of their own pocket. Also, most graduate students are unaware of the resources that are available. The GSS recommends that a better information system should be put in place.
- The Strategic Action Plan & Report 2015-16 contains a series of recommendations. The main concern is that graduate students want to be more welcome in conversations on issues that concern graduate students.

VI. Report of the Policies & Services Committee Chair

Prof. William Clark (Speech & Hearing Sciences) presented the report.

The Committee met on April 12 to consider the Credit Deregulation policy and some of the wording of the new policy. The main concern was the Leave of Absence policy which is covered in the document. The meeting was a forum for discussion of the new policy. The Committee does not recommend any further actions at this point, and approves the current content of the document.

VII. Report of the Teaching & Professional Development Committee Chair

Prof. Rich Loomis (Chemistry) presented the report.

Prof. Loomis thanked Associate Dean Diana Hill Mitchell for her work regarding the improvement of the TA training.

The Committee inquired into improving TA funding models. The Office of Graduate Studies at Georgia Tech is currently conducting a survey, and WashU is waiting for the results of this study.

VIII. Report on Credit Deregulation Implementation

Associate Dean Diana Hill Mitchell presented the report.

The details about the Credit Deregulation policy were sent to members of the Graduate Council prior to the meeting. The policy includes the following five categories:

- *Regular Registration*: This category is for full-time continuing students
- *In Absentia Registration*: Students with this status will be able to study away from WashU and do research. They will still receive health insurance and full funding since this status is considered full-time status.
- *One-Year Extension Registration*: This category applies to students who request an additional year from the Graduate School beyond the regular program length. Students with this status will not receive funding but will receive health insurance subsidies.
- *Degree Candidacy Extended*: This is not an enrollment status. It applies to students with past enrollment at WashU who are still working on their degree. There is no longer an enrollment fee attached to this status.
- *Leave of Absence*: This status will stop the clock for time-to-degree.

Questions were raised by some of the Council members which Dean Hill Mitchell addressed.

IX. New Business

There were no announcements or new business items at this point.

X. Adjournment

Dean Tate adjourned the meeting at 4:51 p.m.

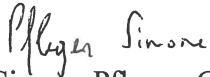
XI. Presentation of Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence

The Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence Ceremony took place on April 21 immediately following the Graduate Council meeting and was followed by a reception. These awards are presented each spring to recognize outstanding teaching assistants. There were 7 awards presented, including a \$1,500 cash prize and a certificate of recognition for each TA recipient. TAs were recommended for the award by the departments/programs in which they teach, and award recipients are publicized in the Commencement booklet in the year of their graduation.

2015-16 Recipients:

Art History & Archaeology	Emily Hanson
Chinese & Comparative Literature	Ling Kang
Germanic Languages & Literatures	Simone Pflieger
Hispanic Languages & Literatures	Carmen Toro González Green
History	Amanda Scott
Music & American Culture Studies	Kelsey Klotz
Betul Demirkaya	Political Science

Respectfully submitted,



Simone Pflieger, Germanic Languages & Literatures
Recording Secretary to the Graduate Council 2015-16