

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

**February 8, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.**

Graduate Council Chair William F. Tate, Dean of the Graduate School, called the meeting to order 4:02 p.m. in the Danforth University Center, Room 276. Approximately 50 graduate students and faculty members attended.

## **I. Welcome and Introductions**

Dean Tate welcomed the graduate council to the meeting.

## **II. Consideration/Approval of the Minutes**

The Graduate Council reviewed and approved the minutes of its November 30, 2016 meeting as it was presented.

## **III. Dean's Report**

Dean Tate opened his report by discussing admissions. Dean Tate expressed that he wanted to make the Graduate Council aware of application trends that had not previously been discussed this academic year. There has been a slight decrease in PhD applicants in engineering, humanities and social sciences. There is also a downward trend in international applications. The majority of international applications were to business and engineering programs. There were 92 applicants from countries banned by the Presidential Executive Order. Of domestic applicants, between 9-15% of applications were underrepresented minorities.

A Council member, Dr. Baum, asked if there was still a robust applicant pool, inquiring if the decrease has impacted acceptance into programs. Dean Tate responded that the graduate program does not analyze application data as thoroughly as in the undergraduate program, however summaries will be provided in the future to allow for future planning.

## **IV. Report of Graduate Student Senate Co-Presidents**

Graduate Student Senate (GSS) Co-President Toshi Miyatsu, a PhD student in Psychology and Brain Sciences, presented upcoming events of the GSS and encouraged programs to send faculty or students to attend. Events planned this semester include:

- 2/9/17: Self-care in the Academy
- 2/12/17: Graduate Student with Children Valentine's Event
- 2/15/17: Graduate Student Health Forum
- 2/21/17: Graduate Research Symposium

## **V. Action to approve new graduate courses**

Assistant Dean Pat Howard of the Graduate School Registrar presented the additional 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 modification was made to the policy to reflect a paragraph that was duplicated in a different course.

## **VI. ITOC Committee: Travel Registration Requirement**

Dr. Carter of the International Travel Oversight Committee (ITOC) presented the purpose and services of the committee. Dr. Carter stated that the goal is to facilitate better and safer travel for all associated with the University. The committee meets biweekly and generally does not approve travel that is flagged as a high-risk area. In the past year, students or faculty associated with the University were in five locations where there were significant incidents impacting safety. Dr. Carter reported that all students and faculty now have travel insurance for 180 days at a time with GeoBlue.

Dr. Carter stated that they reach out to faculty, students and international students when there is a reported event to ask if assistance is needed. A member asked about the process for students returning home to high risk areas. Dr. Carter stated that they confirm that faculty are aware of the travel and rely on State Department recommendations. Dr. Carter clarified that students are covered by travel insurance regardless of location if the travel is approved beforehand. A student asked if international students are covered while traveling home if it is considered high risk. Dr. Carter reinforced that WashU will do anything they can within the law to help students wherever they are. A Council member brought up the possibility that travel would be approved, but prior to travel the location could become high risk. Dr. Carter stated that individuals can decline to travel, but this has not been a significant issue. Dr. Carter discussed the importance of considering the safety of transit and lodging while in the country. Travelers are encouraged to review the WashU travel policy, CDC Travel website and register with the local Embassy.

A Council member asked about how information about travel safety and registry will be disseminated amongst programs. Dr. Carter responded that ITOC will provide informational sessions upon request and the slides from today's presentation will be provided to the Graduate Council.

All faculty and students are encouraged to register at [www.global.wustl.edu/resources/travel-registry](http://www.global.wustl.edu/resources/travel-registry). Dr. Carter reported that travelers funded or supported by the University will eventually be required to register their travel.

To learn about Global Health Insurance and assistance:

- Faculty and staff: <https://www.geo-blue.com>
- Students: <http://hthstudents.com>
- SOS travel assistance: [www.internationalsos.com](http://www.internationalsos.com) WashU Member Number 11BSGC000032

## **VII. Bias Report and Support System**

Purvi Patel, Assistant Director for Diversity and Inclusion presented an overview of the bias reporting system. Ms. Patel stated that the system has existed for 2.5 years and is designed to support, refer and inform the community about incidents of reported bias. It was initiated because of student reports of bias related incidents. The system is designed for students that have witnessed or have been a target of bias to report the incident, get support and referrals to sources to help them resolve the issue if needed. The Diversity and Inclusion office will also be doing education around campus and during orientation. Published reports are compiled each semester.

A Council member asked if there is a system to prevent faculty from retaliation towards a student if a concern is reported. Ms. Patel stated that this is not meant as a resolution system, and they support and educate the student to know where they can go to seek a resolution on their own. Ms. Patel requested that the Council help to educate the student body that the system is not meant to provide resolution to reported concerns, but to provide support and referral to the appropriate person to communicate the issue.

### **VIII. Graduate Student Representatives to the Board of Trustees**

Assistant Dean Ashley Macrander encouraged students to apply to be a representative to the Board of Trustees. Applications are due 2/14/17 and are available online.

### **IX. Spring Three Minute Thesis and other Graduate Programs**

Assistant Dean Ashley Macrander presented the Three Minute Thesis event. Dean Tate highlighted the value of attending the Three Minute Thesis event.

Assistant Dean Macrander reported that there will be Graduate Student Leadership Awards this semester. She reported that the peer mentoring program is continuing well and the international peer mentoring program was initiated this semester. The next event is bowling on 3/15 and any interested mentors or mentees for the international peer mentoring program are encouraged to attend.

### **X. New Business**

A member proposed discussion about the three-paper model for PhD dissertations and other alternative dissertation models.

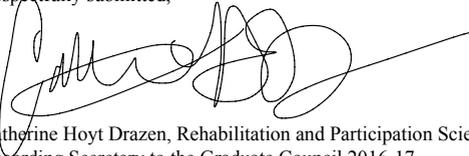
Another member suggested discussion about the revised funding structure for PhD level students. Dean Tate commented that the funding model for Arts and Sciences has a clear delineation between university fellowship, dissertation fellowship or outside funding source. Teaching assistants are considered a mentored teaching academic experience with a faculty member, like being enrolled in a course of mentored research.

There was a question about graduate student unionization and progress towards students joining a CBU. Dean Tate reported that he is not aware of current progress.

### **XI. Adjournment**

Dean Tate adjourned the meeting at 5:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Catherine Hoyt Drazen', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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