

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES

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

November 2, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

Graduate Council Chair William F. Tate, Dean of the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, called the meeting to order 4:03 p.m. in the Danforth University Center, Room 276. Approximately 59 graduate students and faculty members attended.

I. Consideration/Approval of the Minutes

The Graduate Council reviewed and approved the minutes of its September 29, 2015 meeting as it was presented.

II. Dean's Report

Dean Tate opened his report by commenting briefly on the two options for health care available to graduate students. Option one is opting into the employee health care function and option two is the student health care plan.

Dean Tate announced that a university-wide commission focused on diversity and inclusion has been established.

Dean Tate encouraged the Council representatives to watch the film *The Hunting Ground* since the documentary provides good insight into issues of safety and rape on college campuses.

III. Report of Graduate Student Senate Co-Presidents

Graduate Student Senate (GSS) Co-Presidents Pierre Haenecour, a PhD student in Earth & Planetary Sciences, and Nisha Iyer, a PhD student in Biomedical Engineering, presented the report of the GSS.

GSS updates:

- The screening of *Hunting Ground* was a great success. Roughly 120 students attended the event. WU obtained the license to do additional screenings. Please contact Pierre Haenecour if you are interested in screening the film.
- The Annual Graduate Research Symposium will take place on February 22, 2016. The call for posters will be sent out around mid-December along with the call for applications to the GSS travel award.
- The survey on graduate student health insurance yielded 149 answers. The results are part of the health forum discussion on Wednesday, November 4, in Liberman Graduate Center.

IV. Report of the Teaching & Professional Development Committee Chair

Prof. Rich Loomis (Chemistry) presented the report.

Prof. Loomis pointed out that Diana Hill Mitchell is leading the TA training for facilitating inclusive classrooms. The film portion of the project is finishing soon, and the entire project will be completed by the end of this year or early next year. It will include an interactive component.

The committee is interrogating fellowship funding models, questioning whether the current model is the best one and is surveying other models that might be a better fit for WU.

V. Report of the Policies & Services Committee Chair

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

The committee met on October 26 to consider the proposed deregulation policy. Various concerns were raised and addressed which include the financial implications of the policy, the impact of the policy on added credit hours required for certificates, the authority granted each department to continue their current program, the guarantee of the current 5/6 year funding package, and the effect of the policy on only incoming students or all students.

The credit deregulation policy will not impact visas since the full-time enrollment status will suffice to meet the visa requirements.

VI. Action to consider and approve proposal for new MFA in Dance

The proposal was sent to members of the Graduate Council prior to the meeting. The Council reviewed and unanimously approved the degree program as it was presented.

VII. Action to consider and approve proposal for revised AM in Statistics

The proposal was sent to members of the Graduate Council prior to the meeting. The Council reviewed and unanimously approved the changed program as it was presented.

VIII. Action to consider and discuss doctoral degree credit deregulation policy

The proposal was sent to members of the Graduate Council prior to the meeting.

The inquiry about other programs and their credit requirements yielded the following results:

- Most competitor programs do not have credit requirements.
- State schools have a comparative requirement.
- The exact breakdown of the number of university with no, minimal or comparable credit requirements is the following:
 - No credit requirement: 46
 - Minimal requirements: 4
 - Comparable requirements: 18

The ensuing discussion focused primarily on objections to considering “discovery” impossible within coursework; it was suggested that “independent or collaborative research” might be used in place of “discovery,” as graduate seminars in the humanities normally require such research by students.

The committee will continue to deliberate on this policy. The policy will be voted on at the Council meeting in February. Any concerns should be sent to Prof. Clark so that they can be addressed during the committee meetings.

IX. 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 it was presented.

X. New Business

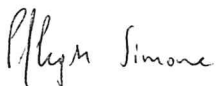
Announcements:

- There is a new housing committee that is looking into recommendations and additional options (potentially some of the newly renovated Quadrangle properties) regarding graduate student housing.

XI. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,



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