

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

November 30, 2016 at 4:00p.m.

Graduate Council Chair William F. Tate, Dean of the Graduate School, called the meeting to order at 4:00p.m. in the Danforth University Center, Room 276. Approximately 60 graduate students and faculty members attended.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Dean Tate welcomed the committee and guests.

II. Consideration/Approval of the Minutes

The Graduate Council reviewed and approved the minutes of its September 27, 2016 meeting as it was presented.

III. Dean's Report

Dean Tate opened his report by commenting on strategic planning initiatives:

First, faculty members are in the midst of reviewing graduate student applications. Dean Tate reported that CollegeNet is now up and running COJTeclty. For problems, please contact Dean Diana Hill Mitchell for help.

Second, Dean Tate noted the high demand for Career and Professional Development opportunities. The expansion of these opp01tunities is being spearheaded by Liberman center and Dean Ashley Macrander.

Third, the search for an Associate Dean for Career Development is on-going. An offer will be made soon. Dean Tate reiterates the commitment of the Graduate School to improve career development options at WashU.

Fourth, Dean Tate will chair a new committee on campus diversity initiatives. One subgroup will be concerned with diversity in graduate education and developing ideas to improve it. Dean Tate invited ideas and notes from the committee on what should be considered and ought to be measured as these efforts take shape.

Lastly, Dean Tate reports that the Graduate Student Senate Strategic Planning request tor an Ombudsperson has been fulfilled. He announced that ombudsperson Jessica Kuchta-Miller would introduce herself and her role later in today's meeting.

IV. Report of Gmduate Student Senate Co-Presidents

Graduate Student Senate (GSS) co-presidents Toshi Miyatsu, a PhD student in Psychology and Brain Sciences, presented the report of the GSS (Co-President Donny Gerke, a PhD student in Social Work was absent).

GSS updates:

- Five Fall Travel Awards, from a wide range of research subjects, have been selected by the Graduate Student Senate.
- The Spring Graduate Research Symposium will be held Feb 24. Call for abstracts will go out in mid-December.
- There is a newly formed committee within the Graduate Student Senate that will inform graduate students about the unionization issue from a neutral standpoint.

V. 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. Yes: Approx: 60, No: 0, Abstain: 0

VI. Action to approve new graduate courses

Assistant Dean Pat Howard presented the additional course offerings. The list of new graduate courses was sent to members of the Graduate Council prior to the meeting. Yes: Approx: 60, No: 0, Abstain: 0

VII. Vote: New Child Leave Policy

Bill Clark, Chair of the Policy and Services Committee presented the policy. After the last council meeting, the deans of the schools reviewed and approved this policy. This step was taken since the schools would be responsible for funding the policy extension. Bill Clark asked for a vote to ratify the policy.

After a modification on the 4th line in the new policy to "parental leave", the Council unanimously approved the policy with this modification.

Dean Tate suggested a sub-committee be formed to examine the effects of the policy.

VIII. Discussion: MA Policy Proposal for PhD Students

Bill Clark, Chair of the Policy and Services Committee, and Dean Diana Hill Mitchell presented the topic. Departments are now no longer required to mandate 72 credits in the PhD program. Questions arose for Masters students resulting. This new policy would allow departments to no longer require 36 units and expand students' choices in taking courses outside of their home department as long as they had an advisor in the secondary department. Arts & Sciences is open to doing this currently; some other schools are interested.

Two key components: 1) remove 36-hour-credit requirement, 2) remove requirement to do qualifying exams by the third year. Today's meeting is intended to be a discussion before voting at a future meeting.

Question: Is it common for someone to pursue a Ph.D. and also pursue a Masters at the same time? Dean Diana Hill Mitchell pointed out that it would be novel and gave an example of an Education PhD with a Masters in Biology or Chemistry. It may enable students to add depth to their area and make students more competitive on the job market.

Dean Tate mentioned that this is meant for students who could benefit from added depth in an area that complements the primary research area as it matters on some job fronts. This would make some of the students more competitive on the job market by setting students apart from their competition on the job market. For example, a computer science Masters degree in a PhD program.

Concerns raised: should some courses count for multiple disciplines as in undergraduate education. What about grades in the other department, should that, for example, affect probation in the home department? What about measuring effort on grants as currently done in chemistry. What about time to degree? Doing the same work for a Ph.D. and additionally for a Masters, this should prolong the time to degree. Some representatives shared that their students take extra time to fulfill certificates already. Another council member in the room noted that obtaining a certificate worries some students as they still have to meet benchmarks for Ph.D. He noted that doing it as a Masters could give more structure and keep students on time if it complements the Ph.D., more so than the certificates do currently.

Response from Dean Diana Hill Mitchell: courses should be in research area, so there would not be additional time required. It should depend on the students and the area they are studying. Dean Tate mentioned that the student would have already taken courses in an area and the students would pursue this only to deepen their understanding of a **secondary area**.

Question: How does this relate to or differ from certificate programs? The effort to pursue a certificate was already impacting time to degree according to speaker in the room. Response: With this change, students would be eligible either for a Masters or a certificate. The requirements would be tailored to the student's interest and research.

Bill Clark asks if this makes the certificate obsolete? Dean Tate is not aware of how this would impact the certificates, but notes that certificates are attractive to students as is. Impact would depend on the department.

Dean Tate notes that people have made requests for years to get this change approved. He also notes that Stanford has the program but not many students take advantage of it. A council member notes that this could be a recruiting tool since no other place in the country offers it.

The discussion continued and it was asked if students shouldn't take charge of their own degree.

Audience members asked if there would be more rigid guidelines and more documents than the one outlining the proposal on how to put the two degrees together.

Dean Tate notes that the faculty member would put the joint plan together on behalf of the student. In that sense, the student and faculty mentor would personalize the degree.

Bill Clark suggested this could be a tool to improve across-school collaboration and invites input via email.

IX. Chancellor's Graduate FeUows & Olin Fellows application and deadline

Associate Dean Sheri Notaro reported on the anniversary event this year with alumni, and spoke about the new Chancellor's Graduate Fellow Alumni initiative that enables departments to invite alumni to campus. This initiative would pay up to \$1,000 to bring former Chancellor's Fellows back to campus to disseminate their research. Contact Associate Dean Sheri Notaro directly or find information on the Chancellor's Graduate Fellows website.

Additionally, the deadline for new Chancellor's Fellows is Jan 25, 2017. Departments will receive access to the applications soon and are encouraged to ask prospective students to apply to the program. Finalists will be hosted on Sunday, Feb 19 and Monday, Feb 20. Assistant Dean Sheri Notaro asked for departments to plan rigorous schedules for the finalists as was done in the past.

Dean Diana Hill Mitchell reported on the Olin Fellowship, which has the same application deadline. The Olin Fellowship will not host on-campus visits this year. The program is still looking for reviewers to evaluate applications. Please contact Dean Diana Hill Mitchell directly.

X. Ombudsperson for Ph.D. students

Jessica Kuchta-Miller spoke to the committee and introduced herself. She has been on campus for 15 months as the ombuds for staff, which was recently expanded to Ph.D. students. She shared the fourfold purpose of the ombudsperson on our campus. Her goal is to promote conflict wellness culture as an outsider who provides objective feedback as a confidential, third party neutral person. Contact her by phone 314-379-8110; email is discouraged.

XI. 3MT Competition

Assistant Dean Ashley Macrander presented information regarding the competition and invited the committee to attend and judge for the people's choice award. This year, the competition features 10-13 students and will be held on December 6, 2016 from 4pm to 6pm in Umrath Lounge.

XI. Bias Report and Support System

This item was crossed off of the agenda.

XIII. New Business

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

XIV. Adjournment

Dean Tate adjourned the meeting at 4:54 p.m.

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Marina P. Gross, Psychological and Brain Sciences filling in for
Catherine Hoyt Drazen, Rehabilitation and Participation Science, Occupational Therapy
Recording Secretary to the Graduate Council 2016-17