

Graduate Council Meeting MINUTES

Approved
January 12, 2017
01:00–03:00 PM
Room LIB-208

Attendees:			
COB	<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Monica Hernandez	✓ Dr. Joseph Mollick	✓ Dr. Alexandra Theodossiou
COEHD	<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Corinne Valadez	<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Frank Spaniol	✓ Dr. Lynn Hemmer
CLA	✓ Dr. David Gurney	✓ Dr. Charles Etheridge	<input type="checkbox"/>
CONHS	✓ Dr. Yolanda Keys	✓ Dr. Pamela Greene	<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Sara Baldwin
CSE	<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Chris Bird	✓ Dr. Dulal Kar	✓ Dr. Xinping Hu
CGS	✓ Dr. JoAnn Canales	✓ Dr. Thomas Naehr	✓ Dr. Steve Seidel
Ex-officio	✓ Dr. Catherine Rudowsky		

I. Approval of Minutes from November 10 and December 08 Meeting

The minutes were approved with one minor change to the December 08 attendance roster upon the motion of Dr. Greene and the second of Dr. Keys.

II. Reports and Updates

A. Graduate Council Chair – Dr. Charles Etheridge

Dr. Etheridge stated that he was surprised about the controversy the discussion of core competencies for graduate students caused among some of the Colleges. The Core Competencies document was circulated among CLA faculty, who felt that having a set of such competencies was, in principle, a good idea. CLA faculty also provided valuable feedback.

Dr. Etheridge attended a meeting with scholarship consultants from Third Coast Higher Education and reported that the consultants appeared to have a good understanding of graduate scholarship processes and that the overview over TAMU-CC graduate scholarship processes was positively received.

B. CGS Updates – Dr. JoAnn Canales

i. One-semester GA appointments

Dean Canales stated that CGS would start offering one-semester appointments to new graduate assistants working for CGS. She also stated that this would be an option other Colleges may want to consider as well.

Dr. Naehr stated that the sample appointment letter in the Graduate Assistant Handbook would be updated.

ii. Spring Graduate Student Orientation – January 17

Dean Canales provided an overview of the schedule for the Spring 2017 graduate student orientation.

TENTATIVE FUTURE MEETING DATES:

2017: 01/26, 02/09, 02/23, 03/09, 03/23, 04/13, 04/27, 05/11

iii. Changes to thesis and dissertation abstract guidelines

Dean Canales stated that CGS will no longer check content and format of thesis and dissertation abstracts. This will be the responsibility of each student's graduate advisory committee.

Dr. Kar stated that the deadline for thesis submissions was too early in the semester. Dean Canales replied that program coordinators will be asked about submission deadlines.

iv. New CGS Initiatives

1. Women in Leadership (Wil) Program

The WiL program will start a six-months pilot with a small group of female students on March 01.

2. DoctoralNet

DoctoralNet is a website that provides doctoral students with a variety of resources. All doctoral students will be subscribed on 01/26. Use of site will determine long-term availability, as there are costs to CGS associated with the subscription. Dr. Etheridge asked that this service should also be made available to MFA students.

3. News Bulletin

A CGS News Bulletin will be sent out on every third Tuesday of each month.

4. New Website

Fund Your Future is a bilingual website, where grant-funded opportunities for underrepresented minorities available at TAMU-CC will be posted.

C. Committee Reports

i. Curriculum – Dr. David Gurney

1. Discussion item: MS in Athletic Training

The Subcommittee will meet to discuss the proposal for the MS in Athletic Training in time for the next Graduate Council meeting.

ii. Rules and Procedures – Dr. Joseph Mollick

1. Action item: 01.01.99.C0.01 Review and Approval Rules and Procedures

Procedure 01.01.99.C0.01 was approved during the December 08 meeting.

Dr. Mollick stated that he met with the CLA Associate Dean to discuss requirements for graduate faculty applications. He reiterated that the Subcommittee requires evidence that College procedures for appointment of graduate faculty were followed. Examples include meeting minutes or other documentation of election results.

Dr. Naehr stated that he will check with Kevin Houlihan on the status of the revised university procedure on graduate faculty.

Dr. Hu asked what elements a graduate faculty application has to contain. Dr. Naehr explained the requirements and process.

D. Liaison Reports

i. ITDEC – Dr. Frank Spaniol

Not present – no report

ii. Faculty Senate – Dr. Corinne Valadez

Not present – no report

iii. Library – Dr. Catherine Rudowsky

A proposal for funding to subscribe to a video repository (Media Site) was submitted to UTC.

The library is purchasing several “capture boards,” which can send whiteboard “screen shots” directly to users’ phones. Dr. Rudowsky will send information about these boards to GC members.

The possibility of establishing a small “Maker Space” lab with 3-D printing capabilities is being investigated. Dean Canales recommended contacting iCore, as the lab has experience with 3-D printing.

iv. International – Dr. Joseph Mollick

Offer has been extended to candidate for International Coordinator position. This is a new position, not a replacement for Karin Griffith, who has retired.

Study Group is the new ESL provider.

Dr. Kar stated that international recruitment is needed, especially for the new fast-track programs. Dean Canales recommended contacting Oscar Reyna, as his unit is responsible for graduate recruitment.

III. Unfinished Business

Memo in support of CPIRA request to increase graduate assistant stipends

Dr. Etheridge will draft memo to be sent to Provost.

IV. New Business

None

V. Matters Arising

Dr. Keys asked if anyone knew when the 2017/18 academic calendar would be published. Dr. Etheridge stated that the delay may have to do with discussions about changing the Fall 2017 start date. Dr. Mollick mentioned that a change in the date to drop a course is also being discussed in Faculty Senate.

Dr. Kar stated that current student teaching evaluations are not a good fit for graduate courses. Dean Canales asked whether this was a consensus across all colleges. Dr. Etheridge stated that evaluation questions were developed some time ago and should be revisited. All college representatives agreed.

Dr. Mollick voiced his concern with the large number of graduate students in some online classes (>100 in some MBA classes), which may affect student evaluations.

Dr. Etheridge stated that this is an issue that should be investigated. He will talk to Drs. Shupala, Spaniol, and Cifuentes.

Dean Canales asked whether STARFISH is used to improve retention in graduate programs. Council members stated that STARFISH is mostly used in lower-level undergraduate courses and has produced mixed results.

As chair of the Graduate Council, Dr. Etheridge observed that lately important decisions have been made unilaterally by administrators without adequate faculty input. Examples include the decision to move graduate admissions to the Office of Recruitment and Admissions, changes to financial aid affecting graduate students, and the decision to transfer responsibility for content, format, and quality of thesis and dissertation abstracts to the students' committee members.

Some of these decisions were the outcome of individual faculty members contacting university administrators directly, without following established channels involving all affected faculty. While these actions may produce short-term outcomes that satisfy the immediate needs of individuals, Dr. Etheridge reminded the Council that such actions undermine the principle of self-governance and, in the long term, disenfranchise all faculty. He asked the Council members to encourage all graduate faculty to follow established procedures.

The meeting adjourned at 02:20 pm.