



COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Graduate Council Meeting MINUTES

Approved
September 22, 2016
01:00–03:00 PM
Room LIB-220

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

I. Guest: Dr. Miguel Moreno, Council of Principal Investigators and Research Administrators

A. TAMUCC Graduate Assistantships

Dr. Miguel Moreno on the issue of TAMUCC pay levels for its graduate assistantships. These low pay rates hinder the university's ability to compete for quality graduate students are not in keeping with the University's stated goal of becoming an Emerging Research Institution (ERI).

Moreno presented a number of charts comparing TAMUCC's pay scale with peer institutions. TAMUCC's monthly pay for an MA student is \$1,200 per month, which is 20% lower than other Texas institutions and more than 30% lower than other schools in the Gulf Coast region.

These low pay rates do not constitute a living wage, forcing students to take outside work. Some TAMUCC graduate students are on food stamps. Another concern, says Moreno, is low pay rates are not consistent with TAMUCC's mission as a Hispanic Serving Institution.

To address the problem, the Council of Principal Investigators and Research Administrators (CPIRA)—which Moreno chaired during the 2015-2016 academic year—issued a report recommending assistantships be increased to \$1,600 and that a plan be implemented to insure cost of living increases are given so that the institution remains competitive. This report was sent to the Provost's Office.

Vigorous discussion ensued. Dr. Spaniol moved that the Graduate Council endorse the CPIRA report and express its support to the Provost's Office. Dr. Corinne Valadez seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes from September 08 Meeting

The minutes were unanimously approved upon the motion of Dr. Pam Green and the second of Dr. Corrine Valdez.

TENTATIVE FUTURE MEETING DATES:

2016: 10/13, 10/27, 11/10, 12/08

2017: 01/12, 01/26, 02/09, 02/23, 03/09, 03/23, 04/13, 04/27, 05/11

III. Selection of Subcommittee Chairs

Curriculum Subcommittee:

Dr. David Gurney is the chair for the Curriculum Subcommittee. The committee has formulated a plan to insure the graduate catalog copy from the various colleges is reviewed in a timely manner.

Rules and Procedures Subcommittee:

Dr. Joseph Mollick is the chair for the Rules and Procedures Subcommittee. The committee is in the process of formulating a plan to insure the general portion of the graduate catalog copy is reviewed in a timely manner. In addition, it will present an application for graduate faculty status at the next meeting.

IV. Reports and Updates

A. Graduate Council Chair – Dr. Charles Etheridge: no report

B. Committee Reports

i. Curriculum – no report

ii. Rules and Procedures

1. CLA Graduate Faculty Application

Tabled until next meeting.

C. Liaison Reports

i. ITDEC – Dr. Frank Spaniol

Dr. Frank Spaniol noted that the committee has begun meeting.

Highlights include:

Communities of Learning workshops, which are beneficial for faculty.

Fee structures for online students—currently students who attend TAMUCC online are entitled to pay a reduced fee structure, but each student must request the online fee structure individually. A process is being studied to make this fee structure automatic.

ii. Faculty Senate – Dr. Corinne Valadez

Dr. Corinne Valadez reported on Faculty Senate actions relevant to the Graduate Council. Highlights include:

The proposal for a graduate certificate in Marriage and Family Counseling was approved.

Workload is being examined.

Deadline for graduate catalog review by Graduate Council is October 13.

iii. Library – Dr. Catherine Rudowsky

Dr. Catherine Rudowsky noted that a number of new databases are available that will be useful for faculty and staff. A complete list will be circulated. She particularly noted a news service called Browzine, an app that allows users to access scholarly articles on their smart phones.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Graduate Catalog Review Timeline

B. Motion regarding catalog changes made after the deadline – Dr. Charles Etheridge

Discussion was held on the motion on the floor from the last meeting—specifically, that the Council establish a firm date after which changes to the next year’s catalog would not be accepted. Dr. Etheridge noted that a catalog is a contract between the university and a student, and, at some point, that contract needs to become final. Faculty from the College of Science and Engineering had expressed concern via email that proposals awaiting approval from an outside agency might not make it into the catalog in a timely manner, and that new faculty would have to wait a significant amount of time—two calendar years—to see a new course they proposed offered in the catalog.

The question arose: “What role does the graduate council play in enforcing deadlines?”

Dr. Etheridge’s response was that the Graduate Council “enables poor behavior” by agreeing to review proposals long after the deadline has passed.

After vigorous discussion, Dr. Etheridge withdrew the motion from the previous meeting, and instead stated that the Council should simply adhere to the current, published deadline of July 1st for all catalog changes. Dr. Spaniol noted that the council should make every effort to publicize the deadline so that faculty know what our current policy was.

VI. New Business

A. Graduate Council Liaison to International Education Committee

The Council was asked to appoint a representative to the International Education Committee. Dr. Pamela Greene noted she already served on the Committee in another capacity. Dr. Joseph Mollick expressed a desire to serve as representative of the Graduate Council. With two of its members on the International Education Committee, the Graduate Council will be well represented.

VII. Matters Arising

The Texas A&M System's 13th Annual Pathways Student Research Symposium will be held on Thursday, November 3rd and Friday, November 4th at Prairie View A&M University in Prairie View Texas.

The meeting adjourned at 2:49 pm.