

Graduate Council (GC)
Minutes of Meeting
April 29, 2015

Pursuant to call, the Graduate Council met at 1:00 pm on April 29, 2015 in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Kathleen Hull presiding.

I. Chair's Report

Chair Hull updated GC members on the following:

April 23 Meeting of the Division:

- The Provost/EVC provided updates on the Strategic Academic Focusing initiative. He conducted two open fora with faculty members and acknowledged concerns that were raised in these discussions. At the open fora, faculty members inquired whether there should be revisions to the FTE allocation listed in the plan and a change of percentage in the allocation to the pillars versus the foundational areas. Faculty are also concerned about the process and composition of the search committees. There was no question and answer period following the Provost's remarks at the Meeting of the Division. Chair Hull mentioned that there is a Division Council meeting tomorrow and she will suggest that the Provost's hiring plan be distributed to each Senate standing committee for review and comment. An example of why GC must opine on the hiring plan: a particular graduate group just submitted its CCGA proposal which contained its expectations for FTE lines. The Provost's hiring plan alters these expectations.
- The Chancellor gave remarks on the Project 2020 plan and reiterated the reasons for the public/private partnerships, the Regents' response to the plan, and the RFP process. As with the Provost's updates, there was no question and answer period that followed. Chair Hull stated that she will raise this issue at tomorrow's Division Council meeting.

II. Consent Calendar

- Approval of the Agenda

ACTION: Today's agenda was approved as presented

- Approval of the April 15 meeting minutes

ACTION: Minutes were approved as presented

- Approval of Social Sciences Graduate Group Bylaws

ACTION: Bylaws were approved as presented

- Discontinuation of WCH courses 200-299

ACTION: Graduate Council approved the discontinuation of WCH 200-291, but will suggest to SSHA that it allow WCH 295-299 to remain in place, as WCH graduate students prefer not to transfer to IH.

III. CRFs

- ME 291- Mechanical Engineering Seminar Series
- QSB 285- Biostatistics

Graduate Council held discussions over email, expressing concern over ME 291's non-compliance with UCM's credit hour policy and QSB 285's grading scale. After contacting the respective instructors, Graduate Council drafted memos to be submitted to the instructors with a request for revisions. Both draft memos were reviewed by Council members via email prior to this meeting.

ACTION: Graduate Council to submit memos to ME 291 and QSB 285 instructors with requests for revisions.

IV. Campus Review Item

- Proposed revisions to the MAPP pertaining to the LPSOE and LSOE series. Prior to this meeting, Graduate Council drafted a memo containing the following concerns: LPSOE/LSOEs serving as primary faculty advisors and the unevenness of the appraisal of LPSOE/LSOEs across campus when only a few in this series teach graduate courses and mentor students. Lastly, Graduate Council recommended that the teaching and

mentoring component of the MAPP draft chapter be restricted to undergraduate students. Council members agreed with the draft memo's points.

ACTION: Graduate Council to send the memo to the Senate chair.

V. Systemwide Review Item

- Proposed guidelines for managing equity.

At the April 15 Graduate Council meeting, members discussed the proposed guidelines and identified the following concerns: clarification needed on the oversight of academic issues, clarification on the rights and responsibilities of graduate students including the issue of original contribution versus employment, and the language referring to "conflict of interest committee" should be changed to the "office" responsible for conflict of interest issues, as not all campuses have a standing committee.

ACTION: Graduate Council chair to draft a revised memo that will be circulated to Council members for review and approval. A final memo will then be transmitted to the Senate chair.

VI. Consultation with VPDGE Zatz

VP Zatz reported on the following:

She is submitting a proposal – with the school deans and several computational faculty members as PIs and co-PIs – for a National Science Foundation Research Traineeship (NRT) IGE entitled "From Computational Literacy to Fluency: Developing and Piloting an Institution-Wide Graduate Certificate in the Computational Sciences." Students who complete the program would receive a certificate of excellence in computational sciences that will be noted in their transcript in the qualifications field.

A discussion ensued among Council members about the implications of awarding additional certificates for graduate students and that any such document with a UC seal needs to be approved by CCGA. A Council member pointed out the need for a future policy that would provide checks

and balances about the proliferation of certificates and would state what Graduate Council wants to see in proposals for certificate programs.

VP Zatz continued her announcement by mentioning that the pilot program would consist of 16 students per year across campus from Quantitative Systems Biology, Applied Math, Chemical and Chemical Biology, Cognitive Information Sciences, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Mechanical Engineering, and Physics. A two-day workshop will be held in the fall semester and two half-day meetings will be conducted during the academic year. The students would work in interdisciplinary teams on projects involving the national laboratories, industry firms, and faculty members. Students will be eligible to apply in their 2nd or 3rd year and would need faculty approval and support.

VP Zatz asked if she can include Graduate Council's endorsement in the proposal.

ACTION: As Council members had not been sent the proposal beforehand, the Council agreed to provide VP Zatz with a general memo stating that it is aware of this pilot proposal and is supportive of the opportunity for our graduate students that this potential traineeship represents.

VP Zatz concluded by announcing the following:

- 139 SIR compared to 101 from last year.
- Dissertation boot camp in June.
- Graduate Advocacy Day was highly successful and students met with eleven Assemblymembers, Senators, and their staff.
- Inquiry about fellowship rankings. (The Graduate Council awards subcommittee members were absent from today's meeting but are completing their rankings remotely.)

VII. Executive Session
Confidential. No minutes taken.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Attest:

Kathleen Hull, GC Chair

Minutes taken by: Simrin Takhar, Senate Analyst