

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2017

**M. Cunningham, B. Mohan, G. Morris, J. O'Brien, J. Sheuermann, M. Lewis, L. Dornier,
J. Jayawickramarajah, C. Pealer, G. Didier, C. Rodning**

1. Meeting called at 8:34
2. Approval of September Minutes. Motion C. Pealer, Seconded by J. Jayawickramarajah
3. Grad Council Meeting Dates for Fall 2017
 - o November 8
 - o December 13
4. Announcement
 - a. Constitution only needed one reading and was approved by University Senate and is now online. The only change was that the quorum is 8 people, not 7.
 - b. Need to recruit new members from School of Public Health and the Freeman School of Business to fill new permanent spots. We'll aim to fill these by Spring Semester. This should help with oversight of programs in all schools.
 - c. Working with HR to provide Flex Spending to grad students (for instance to pay for childcare or healthcare before taxes)
 - d. Working with AR to make fees due on October 1. This will help students, and hopefully get students to register earlier
 - e. We had almost 2000 new students in graduate and professional students
 - f. Changemaker Institute Plus accelerator program. This particular grant provides organizational and financial support for students who want to start non-profits. Email will be sent out after the meeting
 - g. If you have exceptional students applying for Fulbrights, etc, contact Jennifer Beers in NTC
5. Graduate Assistant Policy Vote
 - a. Definitions. 20 hours per week of work versus research training

- b. Slight changes to the language of the policy were proposed to accommodate students in a program rather than a department, and RAs supervising less experienced graduate students as well as undergraduates
 - c. Motion to accept the policy, C. Rodning, Seconded L. Dornier. Passed, all in favor
6. Master's Degree Program Review – Overview of Process
- a. We are not giving advice to shut down programs. This is for reflection, how are our master's programs distinct from the PhD and bachelors. Are students finishing in a timely fashion, what are the goals and outcomes?
 - b. Main questions: How is it distinct? Overall strengths, weaknesses, time to degree, outcomes for students
 - c. The provost wants to know more about graduate programs and help us advocate for our unique programs. He will be receiving summaries of our proceedings
 - d. AAU Graduate Deans and Provosts both said we need more transparency in graduate education. This includes students who applied, were admitted, graduated. Check out Duke's website for reference.
 - e. Program outcomes and impacts for many reports are weak. This is something that's been required for SACS. Perhaps we should use Neuroscience as an example. We also need to strongly encourage contacting former students – this feedback would be huge.
7. Master's Degree Reviews
- a. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
 - b. Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
 - c. Neuroscience
 - d. Mathematics. Need to resend since there were technical issues with the combined file
 - e. Computational Science
 - f. Statistics
 - g. Applied Mathematics
 - h. Cell and Molecular Biology
8. Donut Days

- a. Continuing to have guest speakers
 - b. Next Donut Day on 10/19
 - c. 3MT coming up on 11/15
9. Meeting adjourned at 9:54