

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes  
May 11, 2016

Present: R. Adderley, R. Ager, A. Childress, M. Cunningham, K. Elfer, A. Enami, G. Didier, K. Kwong, B. Mohan, G. Morris, A. Robison, C. Rodning, M. Vail

Absent: S. Grayson, P. Roberts, L. Shi

M. Cunningham calls the meeting to order at 8:35 AM.

**1. Approval of February and April's Meeting Minutes.**

R. Ager moves to approve; M. Vail seconds the motion. All approve.

**2. Announcements**

M. Cunningham thanks our graduate students and R. Adderley for serving on the Graduate Council.

Physics and Physics Engineering has a new Material Physics and Engineering PhD track for students. The Master's program has been successful, and this is one of the few Material Physics programs in the region.

Next year the Graduate Council will be creating a plan to internally review our Master's programs as part of the review process. (This will only include the research-based Master's.)

**3. External PhD Reviews + Graduate Council Comments**

M. Cunningham notices that with the interdisciplinary nature of the programs, combined with the university's new budget model, the value of a free-trade agreement between programs should be examined. The Graduate Council may want to develop an MOU to facilitate this.

C. Rodning felt the value of having common core classes that all students within a department take, regardless of track, was applicable and useful to all of the programs in regards to managing their interdisciplinarity. The burden of varying credit courses per track also creates a sense of disunity within the department.

Stipend issues and concerns were brought up among all programs, though to varying degrees of concerns: CCC is well-funded per the reviewer, whereas Anthropology has one of the lowest stipends (in terms of yearly value and funding duration).

M. Vail thinks the Graduate Council should address the funding issues that are repeatedly mentioned in each PhD Review: stipends, programs support, office space, faculty retention and development. These funding issues are systemic and need to be addressed on an administrative level by the Graduate Council. C. Rodning believes that smaller amounts of money can greatly benefit the graduate programs compared to those amounts that are invested elsewhere in the university.

C. Rodning asks what the value is of for a department emphasizing breadth (Anthropology) versus national success & recognition for a niche (Economic Analysis & Policy). M. Cunningham thinks this is a

conversation that the new Provost and Deans will have, where they examine senior faculty and their contributions to the department, especially within intro level courses. R. Adderley shares how History hones in on their strengths, while also having some flexibility to bring in students outside of those niches.

CCC: There is an opportunity to tie the need an Urbanist with the Taylor Center and the search for a SACKS Endowed Chair.

Within CCC, training for faculty positions is not a goal; how are they receiving training and guidance for the job search? M. Vail thinks that leaning more towards disciplinarity (Social Work, Urban Studies, Sociology) than interdisciplinarity will help guide their job search and explain their studies. How does this coincide with the high level of publishing that is done by CCC students?

EAP: As a newer program, the reviewer recommends determining peer institutions, having the program ranked, and evaluating when they should admit students to build cohorts. M. Vail recommends that there is oversight, in the event EAP does admit Master's Students, that they do not view the program as a cash cow.

Economics is not updated by U.S. News every year; the last time the program was ranked, it was 2013, which was the second cohort of students to be entered after Hurricane Katrina. Because of the timing, the department lost faculty, didn't have enough data, and are just graduating the first cohort after the storm.

A.Enami provides a factual correction: there are 2 students who received NSF GRFP grants in the previous year (3 including the one who received her during the review program). EAP has changed deadlines to an early due date without notifying those students in advance.

LAS and LAS/AH: The Stone Center is both a strength and weakness; if the Stone Center loses its resources, it will greatly impact both programs. The program is ranked one of the best in the country, despite a lack of comparable resources to peer programs. R. Adderley says that the Stone Center and LAS can be a great example of what CCC can aspire to be, both in terms of committed faculty, resources, and the value of Master's students.

All reviewers shared with Mike in the exit interview the value of the career and academic advisor and the need for more resources and persons staffing those sorts of roles. G. Morris recommends that departments encourage the faculty to also act as career counselors for their students, rather than relying on Career Services staff.

B. Mohan shares how many peer institutes are able to get great mileage without an increase of resources by investing in university-wide participation and engagement.

G. Morris will be writing the Graduate Council report of recommendations; if you have additional insights or recommendations, please email them to Gil.

#### **4. Subcommittee on Student Leave.**

If you're interested in serving on a summer subcommittee to develop policies regarding student leave, please email Mike or Ashley. We do encourage any PhD students who are interested in participating to contact us as well. OGPS will host uptown and downtown town halls to invite student feedback.

M. Cunningham adjourned the meeting at 9:46 AM.