

## **Graduate Council Report to Board of Trustees Academic and Student Affairs Committee May 16, 2016**

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Since the last report to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Graduate Council has had four meetings. At our final meeting of the academic year on May 3, we elected new members to the GC Executive Committee. I have stepped into the role of chair, from my prior position as Vice Chair. Dr. Andrea Kalinoski, from the Department of Surgery was elected Vice Chair. Our at-large members of the GC Executive Committee are: Dr. Jerry Van Hoy, Dept. of Sociology & Anthropology, Dr. Joseph Schmidt, Dept. of Chemistry & Biochemistry, and Dr. Jason Huntley, Dept. of Medical Microbiology & Immunology.

At some of the other late spring meetings, we had several reports, including: a report on program assessment from Dr. Alana Malik, University Assessment Director, a report from Dr. William Messer about our renewed membership with Oak Ridge Associated Universities and opportunities for our faculty and students for collaborative research with Oak Ridge National Laboratory scientists. Drs. Messer and Norman Rapino also gave an update on Rocket Innovations.

Dr. Susan Pocotte, College of Graduate Studies (COGS) Associate Dean for Academic Affairs reported on the Graduate Student Association budget. Beginning in AY 2012-2013 (FY13) the GSA budget was increased from \$3,676 to \$153,964 and the UT administration approved use of funds for GSA officer stipends in line with support to undergraduate student government officers. In AY 2015-2016, 46.5 % of total budget was allocated to GSA officer stipends and travel to the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students meeting (NAGPS). The GSA officers proposed an evidence-based revision for AY 2016-2017 GSA officers stipend and National Meeting (NAGPS) travel which results in a projected ~\$10,900 reallocation to increase funding of student activities and travel. An allocation of approximately 40 % of total budget is proposed for GSA officer stipends and travel to NAGPS. Over 7% of the GSA budget supports the Midwest Graduate Research Symposium (MGRS). The 7<sup>th</sup> annual symposium was held on April 7, 2016 and the keynote speaker was Dr. Ronald Delph, an historian from Eastern Michigan University. There were over 150 attendees from UT and other universities that included BGSU, Wayne State, Notre Dame, Purdue and Michigan State.

As reported in the last report to this committee, a 'catalog cleanup' review of all graduate courses for updating of course descriptions, pre- and co-requisites, and identification of courses to be inactivated has been undertaken this academic year. Changes were reviewed by Graduate Council's Curriculum Committee and have been submitted to and approved by Graduate Council for most programs and colleges. At the May Graduate Council meeting, the GC Executive Committee was empowered to approve changes to a limited number of curriculum changes during the summer term.

Graduate Council's Academic Programs and Regulations Committee is a new committee charged with serving as an advisory body to the regarding policies, procedures, and actions to promote academic standards. This committee expects to complete its review of two existing policies this summer: Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty and Graduate Student Academic Grievance procedures.

The committee is reviewing the current COGS procedures for Academic Standards this summer with a view to creating a new policy. The committee will report its findings and request input from the Graduate Council in the Fall semester.

The Graduate Council Executive Committee will be meeting over the summer to assess membership on a number of our standing committees. The GC fall agenda will include updates and opportunities for input in Strategic Enrollment Planning in graduate programs.

COGS Dean Patricia Komuniecki reported at our final May 3 meeting that there are strong positive indicators for fall 2016 enrollment. COGS has already processed over 946 admissions for fall 2016 (including 216 awaiting financial documents for full admission). The August census number of admissions for fall 2015 was 1,104. As of May 2<sup>nd</sup>, we reached 86% of the total fall 2015 admissions census. Additionally, the Institutional Research May 2<sup>nd</sup> enrollment tracking report indicates 157 new graduate students already enrolled for fall, a 48% increase over new enrollments compared to May 2015.

At the University Commencements in May 2016, over 100 doctoral degrees, 540 Master's degrees, 10 Education Specialist degrees and 29 graduate certificates were awarded.

The Graduate Council is happy to address questions or concerns involving graduate education.

Respectfully,  
Constance Schall, Ph.D.  
University of Toledo Graduate Council Chair