

Graduate Council Minutes
December 13, 2016
Health Science Campus, Health Education Building Room 105

Present: Amanda Bryant-Friedrich, Frank Calzonetti, Huey-Shys Chen, Leigh Chiarelott, Ben Davis, Viviana Ferreira, Bashar Gammoh, Jason Huntley, David Jex, Edward Janak, Andrea Kalinoski, Carolyn Lee, Song-Tao Liu, Jyl Matson, Marcia McInerney, Daryl Moorhead, Douglas Nims, Lori Pakulski, John Plenefisch, Susan Pocotte, Jennifer Reynolds, Sonmez Sahutoglu, Amal Said, Youssef Sari, Constance Schall, Zahoor Shah, Eric Simpson (GSA), Susan Sochacki, Kasey Tucker Gail (for Megan Stewart), Jerry Van Hoy, Kandace Williams.

Excused: Michael Dowd, Rodney Gabel, Mohamed Samir Hefzy, Junghwan Kim, Madeline Muntersjborn, Barry Scheuermann, Joseph Schmidt.

Absent: Bhuiyan Alam, Anand Kunnathur, Joseph Margiotta, Geoffrey Rapp, Barbara Schneider, Jason Stumbo, Richard Welsch.

Guests: Patricia Relue.

Call to Order, Roll Call, and Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order and the roll called.

Executive Reports

Report of the Executive Committee of the Graduate Council

Graduate Council (GC) Chair, Dr. Connie Schall reported that feedback has been requested in the development of Institutional Student Learning Outcomes from the Provost's office. She encouraged GC members to take the time to complete the survey

https://utoledoair.co1.qualtrics.com/SE?Q_DL=56ZFwMIIe7mOPCI_eVYXAQroepCCas5_MLRP_bJDXdWVVIIN92ITz&Q_CHL=email. Dr. Andrea Kalinoski gave a report to the Board of Trustees (BOT) Academic and Student Affairs Committee on December 12th. A copy of that report is posted on the GC website. The Board of Trustees approved a conversion from a 16-week semester calendar to a 15-week semester calendar. Dr. Peg Traband, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, has been invited to discuss impacts of this conversion on graduate professional studies. The Provost's office will be assembling a committee to make recommendations on implementation for this conversion. The GCEC has requested representation on this committee in addition to representation from the Graduate Student Association.

Report of the Graduate Student Association

Mr. Eric Simpson, President of the Graduate Student Association (GSA), reported that the last assembly meeting for 2016 was held last week on December 6th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on the Health Science Campus in HEB 105. The next General Assembly meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 10, 2017, on the Main Campus in the Student Union Ingman Room from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. The GSA and the Graduate Student Affairs Committee held its first meeting on December 08, 2016, to review GSA Research Award applications. We are replacing the Communication Specialist position and moving to open the Treasurer position. He invited Council to let him or any of the GSA officers know of any interested graduate students. The link will be active on December 17th.

Report of the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies

Dr. Amanda Bryant-Friedrich, Dean of the College of Graduate Studies reported that the strategic planning process is moving forward with the development of the overall of the structure final document and plan coming soon. The student affairs subcommittee of the strategic planning committee is comprised of students both undergraduate and graduate. This committee focuses on all of the things that comprise the student experience including research for graduate students and how this can increase the level of undergraduate research contributing to the overall research enterprise and opportunities for publication and presentation. The committee is looking at academic co-curricular success, increasing leadership opportunities in conferences and workshops -- not just as participants, childcare accommodations, graduation rates, expansion of professional development, mentorship, and career services. The committee is also looking at advancement and funding initiatives as well as discussing perceptions and reputation of UT and how that affects contributions.

Information and Discussion Items

Conversion to 15-Week Semesters

Although Ms. Peg Traband, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs was unable to attend the GC meeting, the Council proceeded with conversation on this topic.

The following questions/concerns on behalf of the GC Executive Committee (GCEC) were displayed:

1. Will the 15-week semester conversion apply to all graduate and professional programs offered on both main and health sciences campuses? If not, what are specific exceptions.
2. If the 15-week semester will not in general apply to professional programs, will it apply to specific graduate programs in professional colleges (for example, the College of Law's Master of Law program)?
3. Has the Provost's Office studied the consequences of the 15-week conversion for graduate students? For example, what are the consequences of the 15-week conversion (including pay schedules) for graduate students with GA (teaching assistants) and RA positions--are there differences for students in professional programs versus graduate programs?

Discussion:

Dr. Kandace Williams expressed concern that a 15 week schedule would present for some professional clinical programs that have licensure with a required number of hours. Graduate students in the College of Medicine and Life Sciences are not exempt from this schedule, however, medical students would be. Dr. Susan Sochacki indicated that most professional programs can find ways to adjust schedules to align with a 15-week semester. The College of Nursing has worked through challenges to align its graduate programs accordingly. The same number of hours are required to meet the semester requirements whether in a period of 15 or 16 weeks.

Dr. Carolyn Lee mentioned that she attended the recent forum on campus on this topic which referenced like-institutions that have some of the same accrediting associations as UT and structured hours. She suggested that the GC ad hoc committee check with those institutions.

Dean Bryant-Friedrich said that conversion transition planning for fall 2017 is already underway. It was approved by the BOT yesterday, December 12th. The transition plan is important to allow sufficient time to plan for and approach the 15-week model without affecting current students.

Questions raised:

Will an implementation committee will be put in place?

Can programs have the option to start early or late rather than converting to 15-week semesters?

How does the new structure affect faculty?

Impact on federal student loans?

Dr. Williams asked for further information on intersessions. Dr. Andrea Kalinoski explained that there may be short course offerings during the intersessions.

Dr. Carolyn Lee stated that longer breaks provide students the opportunity to work longer and earn income.

Dr. Ben Davis noted that the 15-week semester does not impact the College of Law, which will continue with the 16-week semesters model. Dean Bryant-Friedrich questioned the specificity of law courses and how it would impact students in the Masters of Studies in Law graduate program, since there are many of the same courses? Dr. Davis suggested that Dr. Geoffrey Rapp would know the impact and process for that degree program. Dr. Williams pointed out that there are some mixed degree programs for medical students, so flexibility is key. The timing of classes will be important to sync.

Regarding possible consequences of a 15-week conversion (including pay schedules) for graduate assistants, Dr. Schall stated the amount will be the same and they would still be paid every two weeks. Dean Bryant-Friedrich replied that tuition should remain the same since the number of hours per semester is the same, as would stipends remain consistent on this basis as well. Dr. Susan Pocotte noted that summer was not referenced on the 4-page University Calendar document. Dean Bryant-Friedrich noted that the conversion will change summer, but how that will look has not been provided yet. Start dates could be mid-week.

Dr. Williams pointed out that Bowling Green State University is also considering moving to 15-week semesters too.

Dr. Schall thanked Council for their input and asked that additional questions/suggestions be sent to the GCEC.

Standing Committee Reports

Report of the Curriculum Committee

Dr. Schall read the Report of the Graduate Council Curriculum Committee prepared by committee chair, Dr. Patricia Relue.

#	Type of Proposal	Coll.	Dept.	Proposal Name	Course No.	Summary of proposal
1	ECM	BU	Marketing	Global Sales and Strategic Customer Management	MKTG 6250	Change in course title and catalog description
2	NCP	MD	School of BRIM	Research in Bioinformatics	BIPG 6700	(1-6 cr hr) Elective course for MSBS students that want to do mentored research but have not yet passed QE. This course allows students to accumulate research experience and credit between the finish of their lab rotations and the passing of the QE.
3	PRR	MD	School of BRIM	BIPG MSBS Program in Bioinformatics	NA	Addition of three electives (BMSP 5320, CABP 8250, BIPG 6700) to the approved electives list
4	PRR	BU	Accounting	MSA in Accounting	NA	1. Addition of OSCM 6250 to the core (9 to 12 cr hr); 2. Reduction from 12 to 9 cr hr for MSA accounting electives; ACCT 6960 added to list; 3. Business electives (6 cr hr) expanded from listed courses to any two graduate business courses

Referencing the program revision for the MSA in Accounting, Dr. Amal said the program is switching from 12 (to 9 credit hours) in accounting to 12 in business.

Barring no additional comments, the proposals as submitted were unanimously approved.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Council adjourned at 1:14 p.m.