

**Graduate Council Report to Board of Trustees Academic and Student Affairs Committee
May 11, 2015**

The 2014-2015 Graduate Council has had a productive year and is now transitioning to the 2015-2016 Graduate Council. This report highlights activities from this year that will inform our work in the fall.

Graduate Council launches each new year in May. At this first meeting of the 2015-2016 Graduate Council, I began my term as chair and new officers were elected. Dr. Connie Schall from the College of Engineering was elected as vice-chair. The elected at-large members of the executive committee are Dr. Andrea Kalinoski from the College of Medicine, Dr. Kelly Phillips from the College of Nursing, and Dr. Jerry Van Hoy from the College of Language, Literature, and Social Sciences.

As the incoming Graduate Council Chair, I attended the recent HLC conference in March. Graduate Council shares in the responsibility to ensure quality graduate education in ways consistent with the expectations of HLC. In particular, the activities described below are directly in support of HLC criteria.

Graduate Council enjoys a close working relationship with the College of Graduate Studies. Dean Komuniecki and everyone in COGS are extraordinarily supportive. The GSA participates in each Graduate Council and Executive Committee meeting. In addition, we engaged in many conversations this past year with administration across the university, including Interim President Naganathan and Interim Provost Barrett. Worth noting are our discussions with Dr. Cruickshank about graduate enrollment, Ms. Malik about assessment of graduate student learning, and Ms. Huntley about graduate program review. We will continue to focus on these topics in the fall.

Graduate Council approved revised bylaws this year. Three updates are of particular interest. The graduate faculty membership categories are better described to align qualifications with appropriate duties and privileges such as proposing, designing, and teaching graduate courses. Special membership meets the needs of retired faculty to continue appropriate duties as graduate faculty.

The authority of the Executive Committee during the summer is clarified. The purpose is to support timely and informed decisions regarding curriculum while Graduate Council is in recess. The new process is that the Curriculum Committee will provide a list of pending proposals. Then the Graduate Council will vote each May on whether to empower the GCEC to consider these proposals for approval in summer. This process worked smoothly and the current GCEC was thus empowered for this summer.

A Graduate Program Review Committee is described in the bylaws. This committee will assist Graduate Council in participating in the process determined by the Office of Assessment, Accreditation and Program Review. This fall, Graduate Council will develop guidelines for conducting program review that are aligned with UT's program review manual and the Council of Graduate Schools' recommendations.

Respectfully,
Rebecca M. Schneider, Ph.D.
University of Toledo Graduate Council Chair