

**Graduate Council Report to Board of Trustees Academic and Student Affairs Committee**  
**August 17, 2015**

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The Executive Committee of Graduate Council meets during the summer. The focus of our work this summer was to prepare for the upcoming academic year.

An emphasis for Graduate Council this year will be to strengthen our partnerships. Kristen Keith and I have been working together to ensure communication and appropriate collaboration between Faculty Senate and Graduate Council. The first example of joint project is the development of an ad hoc committee on curriculum coordination to facilitate communication between Faculty Senate, Graduate Council, and the Office of the Provost.

On behalf of Graduate Council, I have had conversations with President Sharon Gaber and Board Chair Sharon Speyer. Both have been generous with their time and are willing to continue our conversations this year. I am pleased to report we share common goals for graduate education. We want to attract and prepare good quality students who graduate and are employed in their fields. According to the College of Graduate Studies, we have approximately 4,500 graduate students which make up about 22% of the students at The University of Toledo. I am confident Graduate Council will embrace the goal of growing graduate education in partnership with administration.

Graduate Council meetings are an excellent venue for sharing ideas among faculty, students, and administration. Graduate Council includes 30 elected graduate faculty members from all of the colleges, the Graduate Student Association president and vice president, the vice president for research, the dean of the College of Graduate Studies, and 13 associate deans. This year we are making a special effort to encourage everyone with an interest in graduate education to engage bring their ideas to Graduate Council.

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