

Since the last report to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Graduate Council (GC) has had a number of discussions focused on development of the strategic plan, formulation of institutional learning outcomes, and the program review process in graduate and professional programs.

Two GC representatives have been appointed to the newly formed University Academic Program Review Committee, which will provide input to the Provost on review and continuous improvement in undergraduate and graduate programs. The GC also has a program review committee, with representation from all colleges with graduate programs administered by the College of Graduate Studies. Going forward, the GC committee will provide input and serve as a resource to our representatives on the University committee in review of graduate and professional programs.

The Graduate Council works closely with the Graduate Student Association. The current GSA president, Mr. Eric Simpson, serves on the Graduate Council Executive Committee. The GSA organizes the Midwest Graduate Research Symposium, which is being held this Saturday March 25th, from 8 AM to 7 PM, in the Memorial Field House. Six professional development workshops will be offered to participants. Sixteen Universities in our region are attending with approximately 60 oral presentations and posters scheduled. Over 140 undergraduate and graduate students have registered to attend the symposium.

The Graduate Council has continued to work with the Provost's Office to ensure that our graduate faculty instructor qualifications are in compliance with the Higher Learning Commission accreditation criteria and the proposed Faculty Qualification policy revisions. The GC Membership Committee reviews and evaluates all graduate faculty membership applications. The committee makes decisions regarding graduate faculty member categories and associated faculty duties and privileges for each category. The GC membership committee is completing work on the graduate faculty application process to ensure consistency with the Faculty Qualification policy.

The College of Graduate Studies (COGS) is currently undergoing reorganization to facilitate the creation and assessment of new programs, to enhance enrollment and to increase our attention to the well-being of graduate students. A search is currently underway for an Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs in COGS. The Associate Dean will be directly involved in strategic planning for the Graduate College, developing graduate program policies, enhancing opportunities for undergraduate to graduate studies through pipeline programs and promoting opportunities for interdisciplinary graduate education. The new position of Director of Graduate Admission and Enrollment Management will support our data driven enrollment initiatives. Additionally, an Assistant Dean to oversee Diversity will be added to our staff in the future.

The COGS is accepting proposals for new and modified graduate programs. All members of the University of Toledo community are invited to submit proposals and welcomes input from all constituents. Please feel free to contact Dean Bryant-Friedrich.

The Graduate Council looks forward to continuing partnership with COGS, the Provost's office, the Graduate Student Association, and UT faculty staff and students in supporting our graduate and professional programs.

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