

## **Graduate Council Report to Board of Trustees Academic and Student Affairs Committee December 14, 2020**

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This report includes the activities of Graduate Council (GC) since our last report on September 21, 2020.

The 2020-21 Graduate Council Executive Committee (GCEC) met regularly. We discussed and engaged in ongoing review of two policies, Graduate Student Leave of Absence and Short-term Leave of Absence. At our November 30<sup>th</sup> GCEC meeting, Associate Professor Mike Dowd provided an update on the University Academic Dishonesty policy and asked for feedback, which we are in process of providing. We also are working on two guidance documents for graduate faculty: one on curriculum submission reminders and tips and the other on information about graduate assistantships (e.g., definition of various assistantships, workloads, financial support).

The 2020-2021 Graduate Council met regularly over the remainder of the semester, approving curriculum changes several times and receiving reports from our Membership Committee on the status of Graduate Faculty membership applications and approvals. We also had a number of guests in attendance.

Dean Lewandowski of the College of Nursing and Senior Director Kevin West presented on Professional Challenges in Faculty and Student Relationships at our September 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Using scenarios, they led a discussion focusing on issues such as power differential, confidentiality, and professional conduct in communication.

President Postel and Provost Bjorkman presented and responded to many questions about graduate education at UToledo at our October 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Questions centered around the budget, the policy on graduate tuition costs on grants, and their vision for graduate education. We also passed a Resolution on Anti-Racism and Equity. It reads as follows:

WHEREAS, we have witnessed acts of violence against persons of color and viewed demonstrations protesting the impact of inequity in systems of justice, education, health care and in access to housing, food and employment, and

WHEREAS, The University of Toledo is committed to having a diverse, inclusive campus that is equitable and fair for all faculty, staff and students, accomplished by the implementation of Further Progress: The University of Toledo's Strategic Plan for Diversity, Inclusion and Equity.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The University of Toledo Graduate Council joins the university's endeavors to achieve diversity, equity and the elimination of racism across our campus, and resolves to advocate for racial justice and equity in our role as faculty members by actively engaging in recruitment of diverse students and faculty and ensuring visibility of diversity in our teaching, research, and service.

Our October 20th meeting was devoted to information and discussion about our international graduate students. Sara Clark, Director, Center for International Studies and Programs, & Ting Li, Curriculum Coordinator & Instructor, provided an overview of the International Graduate Student Access Program (GAP). It provides intensive language and test preparation for international graduate students who have not met the UToledo graduate-level language proficiency requirement and/or do not have an admission test score. GC voted to endorse the GAP at our November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Tracey Hidalgo, Assistant Director, Office of International Students & Scholar Services provided an extensive update and answered questions about proposed immigration changes and how as graduate faculty we can support, include, and assist our international students.

An overview of the Common Application System or CAS was presented by Shawn Lowney Associate Vice Provost for Enrollment Management Solutions at our November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

At our November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, Llew Gibbons, Distinguished University Professor, College of Law & Research Integrity Office and RSP Advisory Member, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs presented on the Research Misconduct Policy. The presentation included information on the proposed changes, the scope of the policy, and timelines for review. Discussion was encouraged as well as a request for GC to provide feedback. Also at this meeting, we were joined by Vice President for Student Affairs, Flap Cockrell who provided information on resources available to graduate students from how to get involved in campus organizations to how to access support should a student need assistance with food, finances, mental health or technology.

We held our final meeting of the semester on December 1st. Our CFO Matt Schroeder provided an update on the budget and responded to questions.

Our meetings will resume spring semester. Our first GCEC will be on January 19<sup>th</sup> and our first GC meeting will be on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully,

Submitted by Wendy S. Cochrane, Ph.D., UToledo Graduate Council Chair, 2020-2021