

Graduate Council Report to Board of Trustees Academic and Student Affairs Committee September 21, 2020

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

The 2020-21 Graduate Council Executive Committee (GCEC) met regularly during the summer and held their first scheduled biweekly meeting on August 18th. Topics of ongoing discussion in GCEC include onboarding of graduate assistants, search and appointment of a new interim College of Graduate Studies (COGS) dean, GC committee staffing and the impact of COVID-19 on graduate teaching and research for both graduate students and faculty. We conducted a final review of the Academic Grievance Policy and sent it forward to the Provost for review and approval. We reviewed and discussed the short-term leave policy and sent it back to our Academic Programs and Regulations Committee (APRC) for review and revision.

At the first GC meeting on August 28th, we welcomed our new members and provided a brief overview of the role and function of GC at UToledo and reviewed the charge and membership of committees we maintain in order to support graduate faculty and education. Dr. Amy Thompson briefed GC on COVID-19 operations and answered questions posed by GC members. We welcomed the new interim dean of COGS, Dean Barry Scheuermann who provided an update on graduate enrollment for fall 2020.

At our September 8th GC meeting, Mr. David Cutri and Mr. Elliott Nickerson presented updated procedures for hosting minors on campus and responded to questions posted by GC members. Dr. Cyndee Gruden, in her final role as Associate Dean of COGS, provided information on the process for onboarding graduate teaching and research assistants. The GC discussed challenges, including COVID-19-related budget issues that delayed pay for a number of graduate students on August 28. The GC agreed to work with the COGS Dean to improve the faculty's understanding of the COGS budget process, awarding of graduate assistantships and onboarding graduate students. Providing improved clarity about these processes will enhance the faculty's ability to serve as informed advocates for graduate students in their programs, departments and colleges.

Respectfully,

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

Presented by David Giovannucci, Ph.D., UToledo Graduate Council Vice Chair, 2020-2021