

**Graduate Council Minutes**  
**May 1, 2012**  
**12:30 – 2:00 p.m.**  
**Main Campus, Student Union, Room 2582**

Present: Brian Ashburner, Michael Bechill, Barbaranne Benjamin, James Benjamin, Timothy Brakel, 2011-2012 Amanda Bryant-Friedrich, Michael Dowd, Brian Fink, Timothy Fisher, David Giovannucci, Kay Grothaus, Ruth Hottell, Jon Kirchhoff, Patricia Komuniecki, Joseph Margiotta, Sheryl Milz, Surya Nauli, Douglas Nims, Nick Piazza, Frank Pizza, Susan Pocotte, Linda Rouillard, Snejana Slantcheva-Durst, Dianne Smolen, Nancy Staub, Mark Templin, Gerard Thompson, Joshua Waldman

Excused: Hassan HassabElnay, Mohamed Hefzy, Bina Joe, Anand Kunnathur, Joel Lipman, Patricia Relue, Randall Ruch, Dorothea Sawicki, Barbara Schneider, James Trempe, Robert Yonker

Absent: Constance Schall, William Taylor, Richard Welsch

Present: Max Funk, Lori Pakulski, Rebecca Schneider, James Willey, Kandace Williams, 2012-2013 Susan Sochacki

Excused: Charlene Gilbert, Renee Heberle, David Jex, Cynthia Smas

Guests: Cory Goe, Paul Hewitt, Monica McKnight, Marcy Persichilli, Carmen Phelps, Paul Schroder, Aaron Shaw, Stan Stepkowski, Suohong Wang, Biao Zhang, Dong Zhang

***Call to Order, Roll Call, and Approval of Minutes***

The meeting was called to order and the roll called.

The agenda was reordered to accommodate the schedules of today's guests and to conduct elections of officers to the Graduate Council for 2012-2013.

***Information and Discussion Items***

**Recognition of Graduate Student Scholarship and Award Recipients**

On behalf of the College of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Fellowships and Scholarships Committee, Dr. Komuniecki was delighted to present the following graduate student awards. She thanked the recipients for taking time from their schedules to attend today's Council meeting so that they could be formally recognized for their achievements:

- Robert N. Whiteford Memorial Scholarship  
Presented to a graduate student to assist in research for the thesis, project or dissertation and further the student's professional development.

This year's recipient, **Mr. Dong Zhang**, will receive \$400.

Mr. Dong Zhang, is a doctoral student in Statistics with Dr. Biao Zhang in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. He earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Statistics from Nakai University in 2004 and 2007, respectively and has been at UT since fall 2007. He will graduate this Saturday with his Ph.D.

He currently has four manuscripts based on his research of non-parametric and semi-parametric ROC (Receiver Operating Characteristic) analysis under review at several journals.

He has already co-authored 5 papers with several investigators in the UT College of Medicine and Life Sciences, including papers in top medical journals, including Journal of the American College of Cardiology and the American Journal of Therapeutics. While at UT, he has taught a variety of math courses, including introduction to statistics, calculus for science applications, mathematics for art, and college algebra. He is clearly a versatile statistician with a bright future.

- Robert R. Buell Memorial Achievement Award

Presented to a graduate student in any college who best exemplifies scholarly excellence in the physical and biological sciences, has maintained a genuine interest in the social sciences and the humanities, and plans a career in education.

This year's recipient, **Mr. Paul Schroder**, will receive \$1,000.

Mr. Schroder is an M.D./Ph.D. student in the College of Medicine and Life Sciences conducting his doctoral research with Dr. Stan Stepkowski in the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology. He earned his B.S. in Chemistry Summa cum Laude from John Carroll University in 2008 and has completed his first two years of medical school and passed his USMLE Step I exams. He is now conducting his doctoral research with Dr. Stepkowski focusing on selective modulation of T cell signaling in the search for immune tolerance. He already has one first author publication, three other publications and a fifth currently under review at the Journal of Immunology, a very high impact journal. He has made several national research presentations and this past March, he received the first place Prize for his poster presented at the Annual HSC Graduate Research Forum.

- Helen M. Fields Memorial Achievement Award

Presented to a graduate student with an excellent academic record in the field of English or Education.

This year's recipient, **Ms. Mary Persichilli**, will receive \$1,800.

Ms. Persichilli is a Master's student in the Department of English in the College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences. She earned her Bachelor of Education degree Magna cum Laude in Adolescent Young Adult Integrated Language Arts from Bowling Green State University in 2008. In fall 2011, after teaching English at Morgan High School for three years, she began her master's work in English here at UT, with a view to also obtaining the Teaching of Writing Certificate. She is a graduate teaching assistant in English and has been responsible for many sections of English Composition. She is an Editor for the University Press, The Mill, and also is an associate advertising editor. She recently presented her research on The Great Gatsby at the 3rd Annual Midwest Graduate Research Symposium. and her advisor Dr. Carmen Phelps is here with her today.

- Richard L. Bostleman Memorial Scholarship

Presented to a graduate student who has successfully completed an undergraduate degree and participated for at least two years in NCAA level intercollegiate athletics at UT.

This year's recipient recommended by the Fellowships/ Scholarships Committee and selected by the Bostleman family to receive \$2,100 is **Ms. Megan Friedli**.

Ms. Friedli is seeking the Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. This weekend she will graduate with her BS in Pharmaceutical Sciences summa cum laude with minors in Biology and Chemistry and with College Honors. She will continue immediately into the PharmD program with an anticipated May 2014 graduation date. During her undergraduate years, she was on the varsity swimming and diving team, and served as the team manager during the past year. Megan's accomplishments as a scholar and athlete make her an outstanding choice for the 2012 Bostleman Award. Although Ms. Friedli could not join us today, we will make sure to extend the congratulations of Council to her and her advisor, Dr. Kathy Wall.

### ***Executive Reports***

#### **Report of the Executive Committee of the Graduate Council**

Dr. Michael Dowd, Graduate Council Chair, stated that the Council that the Graduate Council Executive Committee (GCEC) had discussed the two agendas that will be followed today. The first agenda is for the last meeting of the 2011-2012 Graduate Council and the second is a proposed agenda for the first meeting of the 2012-2013 Graduate Council. He reported that the proposed revisions to the Constitution of the Graduate Faculty were approved by a vote of the Graduate Faculty, with over 90% of ballots in favor of the proposed revisions.

Dr. Templin added that he, Dr. Dowd, and Ms. Terri Hayes counted and verified ballots on April 27, 2012. There were 137 votes cast: 126 in favor, 6 against, 5 ineligible (did not have appropriate level of Graduate Faculty Membership to vote). At today's meeting of the 2012-2013 Graduate Council, the GCEC will request endorsement of Council for the current members of the ad hoc constitution and bylaws committee to continue work on the Graduate Council Bylaws through summer, and if necessary, into AY2012-13. The current members have agreed to continue their service on that committee.

Chair Dowd expressed his appreciation to the graduate faculty for the trust they have placed in Graduate Council members in overseeing academic aspects of their graduate programs. He expressed appreciation to the Council members for the time, direction and wisdom they shared with him and the GCEC. He thanked the GCEC for their inspiration; Drs. Nick Piazza, Brian Fink, David Giovannucci, Patricia Relue, Patricia Komuniecki, Jim Trempe, Thea Sawicki, and Messrs. Michael Bechill, GSA President, and Joshua Waldman, GSA Vice President. He also thanked Dr. Patricia Komuniecki, Vice Provost for Graduate Affairs and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies (COGS), for her leadership, her tireless support for our graduate students, and a relentless drive to produce outstanding graduate programs. Continuing, Chair Dowd stated that we are fortunate to have Dr. Komuniecki as our Dean; her dedication to our students and our institution has made our graduate programs better. Dr. Dowd also expressed his most sincere thanks to Ms. Terri Hayes for her countless hours working for the Graduate Council, the Graduate Faculty, and for the Vice Provost and Dean of the COGS. Chair Dowd remarked that AY2011-12 has been a productive year for the Graduate Council. Yet, few accomplishments would have been possible without the support, hard work, and perspective provided by Ms. Hayes. Dr. Dowd again thanked the members of the GCEC and stated that he now looks forward to his new role as past chair of the Graduate Council.

#### **Report from the Graduate Student Association**

Mr. Michael Bechill, President of the Graduate Student Association, gave his last report to Council as GSA President. He expressed thanks and appreciation to the many individuals and offices whose support assisted the GSA with its mission to represent and promote graduate students: Dr. Michael Dowd, Dean Komuniecki, Graduate Council, the College of Graduate Studies staff, Mr. Joshua Waldman, GSA Vice President and the GSA officers.

The GSA has established a tradition to transition to new officers, similar to the Graduate Council. Mr. Bechill was pleased to announce the new officers, many of whom were in attendance.

President, Mr. Joshua Waldman

Vice President, Ms. Monica McKnight

Treasurer, Mr. Paul Roland

Secretary Main Campus, Mr. Cory Goe

Secretary Health Science Campus, Mr. Aaron Shaw

Reflections of past three years bring a lot of good memories. Mr. Bechill provided a few highlights of GSA accomplishments/developments:

- First and foremost, the officers did a tremendous job.
- Established general assembly with representatives from colleges to accurately represent the roughly 5,000 graduate students at UT.

- Refurbished the GSA website.
- Over \$11,000 in travel monies were awarded from COGS, and the GSA appreciates the strong support of Dean Komuniecki for these professional development activities. Our graduate students attending and presenting at regional and national conferences raises the profile of UT.
- Midwest Graduate Student Research Symposium (MGRS) started just three years ago has grown to 185 presenters from 11 universities. Our coordinators had major roles in organizing this event. This past year the GSA raised funds to cover 50% of \$15,000 cost of the symposium.

Mr. Bechill also listed some of the major challenges for the GSA:

- The current GSA budget is only \$3,000, the lowest funded GSA in the Midwest. In 1990, UT had 2,190 graduate students with a budget of \$22,000.
- Health insurance has been a continual challenge to ensure that graduate students have adequate coverage at a reasonable price. Unfortunately, it is still cheaper for graduate students to obtain health insurance externally from UT.
- Tuition and Fees remain a struggle for graduate students with UT the highest in Ohio.

Mr. Bechill asked hopes that the Graduate Council will continue to be relevant and vocal as the established voice of Graduate Faculty, its constituency. In closing, Mr. Bechill thanked the Council for the honor to participate and be heard. The Graduate Council listens and is concerned about graduate students.

Lastly, new GSA President for 2012-2013, Mr. Joshua Waldman, was asked to say a few words.

Mr. Waldman thanked Mr. Bechill for his leadership and credited him with being the brain of the MGRS.

He expressed enthusiasm for the year to come with his team of officers, which he described as the best team of student leaders. The GSA will continue to advocate academically and professionally for graduate students and serve on committees to allow graduate students' voices to be heard. The GSA will assist COGS in its professional development series. We will host the MGRS. We will stay engaged at the national level through our involvement with the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students. The GSA looks forward to developing young leaders in the leadership succession of this organization. Mr. Waldman thanked the Graduate Council and the COGS Dean for their support.

Chair Dowd requested the agenda be suspended to allow for the following resolutions. Council seconded and approved unanimously. Chair Dowd and Dean Komuniecki presented certificates to Mr. Bechill and Mr. Waldman.

#### RESOLUTION:

*Whereas, Mr. Michael Bechill has provided outstanding leadership and service to the Graduate Student Association as President during the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 academic years.*

*Therefore, be it resolved that the University of Toledo Graduate Council extends its deepest gratitude to Mr. Bechill for his dedication to the Graduate Student Association and for his participation as a member of the Graduate Council Executive Committee.*

*READ THIS 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF MAY 2012.*

## RESOLUTION:

*Whereas, Mr. Joshua Waldman has provided outstanding leadership and service to the Graduate Student Association as Vice President during the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 academic years.*

*Therefore, be it resolved that the University of Toledo Graduate Council extends its deepest gratitude to Mr. Joshua Waldman for his dedication to the Graduate Student Association.*

*READ THIS 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF MAY 2012.*

Report of the Vice Provost for Graduate Affairs and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies

Dean Komuniecki provided the following updates:

- *Budget Update*

At last week's Senior Leadership quarterly meeting, it was announced that graduate tuition would be increasing 3.5% -the same as the undergraduate tuition increase. The final FY13 Budget will be presented at the May Board of Trustees meeting.

- *Fellowship and Scholarship Awards*

The Graduate Council Fellowships and Scholarship Committee reviewed the applications for the University Fellowships and other scholarship awards (the latter will be announced later in the GC meeting). Two new Fellows have been selected from the pool of 17 applicants (1 from Engineering and 1 from JHCEHSHS) and we will bring them to a GC meeting in the fall. In addition, the COGS Diversity Committee reviewed 28 GOAP applications, and selected 8 possible candidates; COGS is currently in contact with the home departments of the candidates to finalize these assistantships. Thanks to both committees for their hard work.

- *Announcements*

- o Fulbright Recognition Luncheon

Last week, COGS recognized the five Fulbright Scholars studying at UT this year. You may recall that these students are from Indonesia (2), Kenya, Iraq and the Czech Republic and are in LLSS (2), COBI, COE and COPPS. Look for the article and photo in the UTNews this week. We hope to recruit a strong group of new Fulbright scholars for AY2012-13 and encourage the continuing Fulbrighters to mentor the new scholars.

- o **Commencement: Saturday, May 5, 2012.**

Hope to see many of you at the Saturday's commencement ceremonies and thanks to the volunteer marshals and readers. The morning ceremony includes LLSS, NSM, VPA, Engineering and Nursing; Dr. Maurice Manning, President of the Irish Human Rights Commission and Chancellor of the National University of Ireland, will receive an honorary degree and be the commencement speaker. The afternoon ceremony includes COBI and the Judith Herb College of Education, Health Science and Human Service; former Ohio Lieutenant Governor and former Ohio Attorney General, Lee Fisher, currently serving as the head of CEO's for Cities, will receive an honorary degree and be the commencement speaker.

Pleased to announce that COGS expects the following distribution of the 755 May degrees/certificates:

- 85 doctoral degrees
- 608 master's degrees
- 14 education specialists
- 61 graduate certificates (tripled the number of graduate certificates last spring)

o *New 2012 Summer Professional Development Sessions*

Pleased to announce that students graduating in August will have an ETD Workshop and two ETD Formatting and Submission Open Labs (direct outcome of the funding received from the graduation fee).

o Council of Graduate Schools

The Council of Graduate Schools joint commission report on the “Pathways through Graduate School and into Careers” has just been released. The video of the report will be shown at a GC meeting in the fall. It is timely in terms of the UT theme of being a Relevant University. CGS website has some of this news on their website.

Lastly, Dean Komuniecki requested a resolution in recognition of Dr. Dowd’s leadership of graduate Council for the past year. Council seconded and approved unanimously. She read the resolution and then presented Dr. Dowd with a certificate.

RESOLUTION:

*Whereas, Dr. Michael Dowd has provided dedicated and excellent leadership and service to the Graduate Council as Chair during the 2011-2012 academic year.*

*Therefore, be it resolved that The University of Toledo Graduate Council extends its deepest gratitude to Dr. Michael Dowd for his efforts and guidance as Graduate Council Chair.*

*READ THIS 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF MAY 2012.*

*Standing Committee Reports*

Report of the Membership Committee

On behalf of Dr. Mohamed Hefzy, Membership Committee Chair, who could not be present today, Dr. Nick Piazza reported on the committee’s recent recommendations for applications for Graduate Faculty Membership. Council accepted the report.

Graduate Faculty Membership Applications Spring 2012 –List 2 – April 2012							
College	Full	Associate I	Associate II	Adjunct	Special Status	Returned	Total
Business and Innovation	1						1
Education**	3					1	4
Engineering	10			1			11
Health Science and Human Service**	1						1
Law							0
Languages, Literature and Social Sciences	2			5			7
Medicine	3					1	4
Natural Sciences and Mathematics	5			4			9
Nursing				1			1
Pharmacy	2					1	3
Visual and Performing Arts		1				2	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>44</b>

Dr. Michael Dowd recognized the members of the Graduate Curriculum Committee and the Membership Committee. Dr. Piazza pointed out that the GCEC can act as GC during summer and report during fall. This is particularly important with regard to graduate curriculum that should continue move forward for review and approval.

### ***Old Business***

Dr. Rouillard asked whether tuition increases for fall 2012 are across the board. Dean Komuniecki anticipated that most colleges could expect an increase in the 3.5% range and that professional programs could see an increase in the 5 -7% range. She expressed concern over the impact increased tuition could have on enrollment. The increases were not requested by COGS but recommended from Finance. Additional budget meetings should occur in the next couple of weeks to review the final budget recommendations to the BOT.

### ***New Business***

None.

### ***Adjournment of 2011-2012 Graduate Council***

There being no further business the Council adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

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### ***Call to Order and Roll Call of 2012-2013 Graduate Council***

#### Election of Officers for Graduate Council 2012- 2013

##### ***Chair***

Current Vice Chair, Dr. Nick Piazza, will serve as Chair, per the Bylaws of the Graduate Council.

##### ***Vice Chair (Chair-elect)***

Dr. David Giovannucci, seconded, no additional nominations, nominations closed.  
Elected by acclamation.

##### ***At Large #1 -HSC***

Dr. Kandace Williams – accepted, motion seconded, call for additional nominations.  
Dr. James Willey – accepted, motion seconded, call for additional nominations, no additional nominations.  
Move to close nominations, seconded. Per majority votes, Dr. Kandace Williams was elected.

##### ***At Large #2 -MC***

Dr. Patricia Relue– in Dr. Relue’s absence, Dr. Patricia Komuniecki stated that Dr. Patricia Relue had indicated her willingness to accept a nomination for At-Large position. Motion seconded. Call for additional nominations, no additional nominations. Move to close nominations, seconded, nominations closed. By acclamation, Dr. Patricia Relue was elected.

##### ***At Large #3 –MC***

Dr. Rebecca Schneider – accepted, seconded, call for additional nominations, no additional nominations.  
Move to close nominations, seconded, nominations closed. By acclamation, Dr. Rebecca Schneider was elected.

#### Report of the Executive Committee of the Graduate Council

Dr. Nick Piazza informed Council that the GCEC will continue the practice of having members of GCEC deliver the Executive Committee report. Although we have an approved Constitution, we anticipate the Bylaws will be reviewed over the summer. The GCEC will function as GC during the summer. We expect to be updated on the proposed University Council considering that a launch would likely occur over summer.

The Graduate Chair position has been identified as serving on the Executive Committee for that organization. The GCEC looks forward to continuing its work with the GSA to accomplish their goals and move their agenda forward. Dr. Patricia Relue has asked to step down as chair of Curriculum Committee, but will continue to serve a committee member. In looking at business of curriculum, we ask if any current members would like to serve as chair. However, a current GCCC member, Dr. John Plenefisch, has agreed to serve, although he is not GC member. Dr. Piazza sought GC volunteers to serve a GCCC chair. There were no volunteers. He then asked for a motion to approve Dr. Plenefisch to serve in that capacity. Motion Seconded. Approved unanimously.

The ad hoc committee that reviewed the Constitution with a successful outcome as evidenced today is willing to continue its work on the Bylaws. This ad hoc committee requires approval of GC. The committee members are, Dr. Mark Templin, Chair, Dr. Michael Dowd, Mr. Joshua Waldman, Dr. Rupali Chandar, Dr. Walter Edinger, Dr. Patricia Komuniecki and Dr. James Trempe. Motion Seconded. Approved unanimously.

Among the various University committees, Dr. Piazza stated that he values the work of GC the most and he looks forward to next year.

### ***Standing Committee Reports***

None.

### ***Old Business***

Dr. Margiotta expressed concern over the abolition of journal subscriptions in the Library and would like the GCEC to take up as an issue. Minimally, the library fee should be earmarked for electronic subscriptions. Our students are publishing in high profile journals. Dean Komuniecki said that Dr. Ruch has been collecting information and that Associate Dean, Dr. Thea Sawicki, is compiling that information for her. This issue was raised in the budget discovery and hearing processes, but there has not been a collective action by Deans. Mr. Bechill expressed displeasure at not having access to immunology reviews. Dr. Dowd noted that this issue has also been discussed at Research Council. The reduction in subscriptions is disheartening given that the Library fee should have staved off a budget cut, but that has not occurred. The Library budget has been cut for the past four years on the Main Campus. Faculty members find it difficult to do their own research. Dr. Grothaus noted that nurses must promptly locate information to assist a patient. It is not feasible to wait three days to obtain an OhioLINK article. Dr. Willey suggested that the GC can formulate a resolution on gather information.

Dr. Piazza responded that the GCEC will include this issue in its agenda and may ask a Library representative to address the GC. Additionally, information can be gathered and shared with the GC to determine if a resolution is worthwhile. Dr. Piazza asked Council members to share their input and updates on this issue with the GCEC.

With the proposed University Council to go before the Board of Trustees in May, the GCEC will work to stay informed on the progression and will report to the GC.

### ***New Business***

Dean Komuniecki stated that it is currently unknown whether Congress will raise the Subsidized Stafford student loan interest rates from 3.4% to 6.8% with no deferral while in school; a Congressional vote on this issue will occur in the summer.

### ***Adjournment***

Adjourned at 1:54 p.m.