

**Graduate Council
Minutes
September 15, 2017**

The Graduate Council met Friday, September 15, 2017 at 1:00 pm in the Dogwood Room of the University Center.

Members present: J. Gerlach, C. Huffman, B. Kloeppe, J. Lakatos, J. Livingstone, , S. McGee, B. Ogletree, T. Orr, C. Parrish, T. Pearson, T. Rogers, M. Tanaka, K. Trudell, Y. Yan and Paul Yanik

Members absent: T. Ashcraft, M. Hollis, J. Hyman, A. Perry, F. Razzaghi, R. Scales, and L. Unruh

Others present: E. Frazier

Approval of the Minutes Motion and second to approve the minutes for the September 15, 2017 meeting. Motion passed.

Program Updates

Graduate School announced the Graduate Education Summit will be held on October 25th from 12:00-2:00 p.m. in the UC Multipurpose Room. The Pedagogy theme is “How to have difficult conversations face to face and on-line.” There will be speakers from UNC Charlotte and Clemson in addition to WCU’s Chief Diversity Officer, Ricardo Nazario-Colon. The Three Minute Thesis competition is scheduled for November 8. The application for the 3MT is available on the Graduate School website, and the application deadline is October 20th.

Financial Aid reported that the 2017 Fall term refunds have been sent, and the 2018-19 FAFSA will be available on October 1, 2017. A new scholarship portal system will be implemented in October. The average student debt for WCU graduate students is \$43,520. Dean Kloeppe requested a report of WCU graduate student debt by program.

Undergraduate Admissions starts “Western on Tour” next week, and Rachel Walker will participate as the Graduate School representative. Undergraduate applications are up 10% over last year point in time.

Graduate Student Association (GSA) reported that the GSA meetings have been scheduled and an e-mail survey has been sent to graduate students. GSA is doing more outreach to graduate programs and graduate students are showing a lot of interest. All GSA Travel Grant funds, \$16,000 in total, were allocated and spent last year; however, not all applications were funded so GSA will be requesting additional funds for this year. The GSA Travel Grant application is available on the website.

Nursing reported that Tony Robertson has been hired as the Director of the School of Nursing. The Nurse Anesthesia DNP program passed their accreditation, and the first class will begin in the 2018 summer term. The Family Nurse Practitioner program will be starting a DNP program, but still plans to maintain the FNP Master’s program. The Communication Sciences and Disorders program reported that faculty member Dr. David Shapiro is teaching at Oxford. The new Athletic Training degree program will begin in the 2018 fall term. The Social Work program is discussing a clinical doctorate program. The DPT program hired Dr. David Hudson as Department Head, and will begin an Asheville-Biltmore Park cohort in the 2018 fall term.

The Technology program and the Chemistry program are attending a STEM recruitment fair at Wingate University. Paul Yanik will be transitioning to Technology Program Director.

The MPM program had a reaccreditation team in last week. No issues were reported. The Accountancy all day interviews and evening banquet for accounting undergraduates is today. The MBA program is discussing recruitment strategies. The Sport Management program increased enrollment by 15 students, completed their first round of assessment, and will participate in the national “Quality Matters” program for on-line education.

Standing Committee Reports

Academic Policy and Graduate Faculty Review

No graduate faculty nominations were received for review.

Curriculum Review

There were no curriculum items for review.

Financial Assistance

No report. Lori Unruh will continue to serve on the committee, but cannot Chair the committee.

Committee Assignments Discussion and Break Out Session

Curriculum Committee- Jay Gerlach, the current Chair, is serving his last year on the Graduate Council and was asked to select and mentor a new Chair for next year.

Financial Assistance Committee- Lori Unruh will continue to serve on the committee, but cannot Chair the committee. Marianne Hollis will be asked to move from the Curriculum Committee to the Financial Assistance Committee where she served in previous years, and will also be asked to Chair the committee. This year the committee will discuss assistantship fund allocations if additional assistantship funds become available. Dean Kloepfel requested an additional \$100,000 in assistantship funding, and the budget request is still pending.

Academic Policy and Graduate Faculty Review- The committee will discuss Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's (ABM) program policies.

Graduate Enrollment Report

Dean Kloepfel reported that the official graduate enrollment census number reported is 1628 students. The total number of students is down six students from the 2016 fall term; however, the total number of student credit hours (SCH) for the 2017 fall term is 13,304 SCH which up from 12,946 SCH in the 2016 fall term. University funding is based upon student credit hours.

A change in the distribution of state funds was made this year. Funding will be based upon census day reporting, and the distribution of funds will occur once census day results are finalized.

Faculty Handbook Graduate Council Membership

The Faculty Handbook policy regarding Graduate Council membership has been updated. Graduate Council membership was changed from student credit hours to equal representation for each College, and each College can elect/appoint up to three Graduate Council members.

If a Graduate Council member is unable to attend a meeting, then the Graduate Council member can appoint a proxy.

Graduate Tuition Scholarships

The Faculty Senate and the Graduate School discussed a plan to request some of the athletic scholarship savings accrued from the implementation of NC Promise be allocated to graduate tuition scholarships. It is estimated that approximately \$200,000-\$300,000 may become available.

The Graduate Council was asked to consider the following questions:

- If the funds became available, how should the additional scholarship funds be distributed?
- How could tuition scholarships impact enrollment?
- How the scholarships would be administered?
- How would the scholarship outcomes be assessed?

The Graduate Council offered the following suggestions:

- Full tuition and fees scholarships
- \$3000 per year scholarships
- Two tier scholarships of varying amounts and/or three tier scholarships to include part-time students
- Improve quality
- Offer fellowships
- Consider diversity
- Increase enrollment in non-capped programs (on-line and hybrid)
- Advocate for faculty lines to increase capacity
- Create a task force to work with University Marketing Department and Graduate School to target/tailor efforts
- Differentiate competitive graduate programs
- Target a single graduate program for a ten year period: 1) Increase faculty lines 2) provide scholarship funds, 3) focus marketing efforts. Continue to assess strategic outcomes.

Agenda Item Suggestions and Questions

- Revisit Open House Flexibility
- Changing the Graduate School application deadline
- Request a Financial Aid report of WCU graduate student debt by program
- When will Admissions Processor assignments be finalized?

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Submitted by – Elizabeth Frazier

Please note: All attachments are on file in the Graduate School with the Graduate Council meeting minutes.