

**Graduate Council
Minutes
January 12, 2018**

The Graduate Council met Friday, January 12, 2018 at 1:00 pm in 145 Camp Building.

Members present: T. Ashcraft, J. Gerlach, M. Hollis, J. Hyman, C. Huffman, B. Kloeppe, J. Lakatos, J. Livingstone, S. McGee, B. Ogletree, T. Orr, A. Perry, T. Rogers, M. Tanaka, K. Trudell

Members absent: C. Parrish, T. Pearson, F. Razzaghi, R. Scales, L. Unruh, Y. Yan and P. Yanik

Others present: E. Frazier, K. Rowe

Approval of the Minutes Motion and second to approve the minutes for the November 10, 2017 meeting. Motion passed with one amendment.

Program Updates

Graduate School announced the Graduate Research Symposium submission deadline is February 5th. There will be three paper categories this year 1) Literature Review 2) Plan or Proposal 3) Traditional Research. A new Mission Hospital cohort and a new Jamaican cohort will be starting in the 2018 spring term.

Financial Aid reported business as usual. The 2018-19 academic year awards will be available soon.

Graduate Student Association (GSA) reported that the GSA president has been asked to serve on the Chancellor's search committee. The GSA Travel Grant application is available on the website. The deadline to submit an application is February 15th.

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 reported that they are experimenting with an on-line course format.

College of Business reported lots of interim positions. The Sport Management program has increased enrollment and is in need of additional faculty resources. The Sport Management program is continuing the "Quality Matters" program for distance education.

The College of Education reported that the Elementary Middle Grades Program is increasing enrollment. The HESA program reported that several HESA students presented at a conference recently, some HESA students are planning to study abroad and HESA alumni are planning a reunion during the 2018 homecoming weekend. Special Education received a five year grant for MAED and MAT program recruitment. The Psychology doctorate program will admit students beginning in the 2019 fall term.

The College of Health and Human Sciences hired many new faculty members, and discussions are ongoing regarding program growth at the Biltmore Park location.

The MFA program had a visit from a national accrediting agency. Agency representatives reported that they had never seen happier graduate students! MFA students are presenting at conferences, are participating in a Galway artist exchange and are assisting in a U.S. embassy sculpture project in Niger, Africa.

Standing Committee Reports

Academic Policy and Graduate Faculty Review

No graduate faculty nominations were received for review.

Associate Dean McGee, Chair of the Academic Policy and Graduate Faculty Review Committee, reported that the policy committee would be discussing the following items in the coming months:

- Intensive English Program (IEP) conditional admission for graduate students
IEP has requested that the Graduate School consider offering conditional admission to the IEP program via a general letter from the Graduate School. Discussion with the Graduate Council raised issues regarding visa eligibility if a student is not admitted conditionally to a degree program and what the outcome would be if a student did not successfully complete the IEP program.
- Honors College direct admission to graduate programs
The Dean of the Honors College has asked the Graduate School to consider a program of “guaranteed” priority graduate admission for Honors College students based upon established eligibility criteria. Other state universities such as ECU offer such programs, but not for all graduate programs and with limited slots allocated. Discussion with the Graduate Council resulted in support to consider the proposal so long as graduate programs could participate voluntarily.

Curriculum Review

Program Changes/Creation:

Project Management Degree Program – M.P.M. (Program Change Proposal)

Proposed Change:

Clarify MPM program requirements to better align with Graduate School requirements.

- Currently, to dismiss a student from the program, the MPM program works under the following Graduate Catalog Academic Dismissal Policy requirement:
- A graduate student who accumulates three grades of C or any grade of F will be dismissed from the Graduate School. Students will be informed in writing by the Graduate School at the time of dismissal.
- The traditional 3-hour course serves as the basis for the “three grades of C” requirement. The MPM program uses non-traditional 6-hour courses. Making the recommended change for the MPM Program Requirements better aligns the MPM program with the rest of the graduate programs at WCU.

Approved.

Financial Assistance

No report. A committee meeting will be scheduled before the February 2nd Graduate Council meeting to discuss tuition scholarship awards and summer assistantship awards.

Agenda

Graduate Enrollment Report

Dean Kloeppe provided a handout of the point in time enrollment for the 2018 spring term. Census day reporting will be on January 29th.

Student Loan Debt

Associate Dean McGee provided a handout of median graduate student loan debt by college. The summary does not include all graduate students with student loan debt, but does include graduate students that are currently receiving financial aid from WCU.

The WCU graduate student loan debt snapshot shows that 786 graduate students or 48.3% of all graduate students enrolled at WCU in the 2017 fall term were actively receiving loans. The minimum debt total is \$1225, the maximum debt total is \$169,042 and total cumulative debt is \$34,649,592. The average WCU graduate student debt in 2017 is \$48,124 and the average WCU graduate student debt in 2014 was \$28,175.

Trina Orr, Director of Financial Aid, reported that the average cost of attendance has been increasing in large part due to differential tuition.

UNC Policy: Graduate Teaching Assistant Training, Monitoring, and Evaluating

Dean Kloeppe provided a handout from the UNC Policy Manual with the updated guidelines on training, monitoring, and evaluating Graduate Teaching Assistants.

Potential Allocation of Increased Assistantship Resources

Dean Kloeppe updated the Graduate Council on the potential increase of assistantship resources. At this time, the increased funding has not been approved.

Graduate Council Recommendations on Graduate Tuition Scholarships

Dean Kloeppe announced that Executive Council approved \$100,000 for graduate tuition scholarships beginning in the 2018-19 academic year. The funding will be ongoing and is not one time funding. The allocation of the funding will be finalized over the next few weeks.

The funding will be targeted with the goal of increasing enrollment so the Graduate Council was asked to consider the following questions:

- How should the scholarship funds be distributed?
- How could tuition scholarships impact enrollment?
- How the scholarships would be administered?
- How would the scholarship outcomes be assessed?
- What programs should be targeted for the allocation for the scholarship funds?

The Graduate Council initially proposed \$3000 scholarships for distance students and \$5000 scholarships for residential students. It was also suggested that the scholarships be awarded for a two year period. The question was raised about whether the scholarships were for full-time and/or part-time students since most distance student are part-time.

Concerns were also raised that programs with enrollment caps and programs with high application numbers may not get consideration for the scholarship funds.

Dean Kloeppe stated that he would like to identify six programs to offer tuition scholarship funds to in order to grow program enrollment, and he also considered offering scholarship funds to programs with a large number of students eligible to enroll per the enrollment report in order to entice eligible students to enroll.

The Graduate Council discussed the intention of the scholarships and asked if quality, merit, need and diversity could also be considered when determining scholarship awards.

Dean Kloeppe emphasized that however the funds were distributed that he would have to report to the Faculty Senate on the success metrics of the tuition scholarship program. Such metrics might include the following:

- Percent of admission offers accepted as a result of the scholarship funding
- Increase in enrollment as a result of the scholarship funding
- Improved quality and student success

A determination will need to be made soon as to which programs will receive tuition scholarship funds and how much they will receive.

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.