

Graduate Council Meeting

Monday, December 2, 2024 ~ 3:30 – 4:30 pm

AD-148

MINUTES

PRESIDING: Terrence Deak, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

STAFF: Andreas Pape, Ann Marie Kellogg (recorder)

PRESENT: Alex Jobial, Yetrib Hathout, Norah Henry, Yvonne Johnston, Loretta Mason-Williams, Jacqueline McGinley, Suzanne McLeod, Vladimir Nikulin, Josh Reno, Nicole Rouhana, Jillian Sandy, Hiroki Sayama, Nicole Sirju-Johnson, Yakubu Alhassan Zakaria, Tao Zhang

ABSENT: Pegor Aynajian, Niyazi Bodur, Sharon Bryant, Brad Cannon, Sungdai Cho, Judith Deluca, Pamela Steward Fahs, Praseeda Gopinath, Michael Jacobson, Kyoung-Don Kang, Carl Lipo, Matt McConnell, Anjani Praneet Meruvu, Steven Schwartz, David Werner, Sarah Wexler

Call to Order:

Dr. Pape called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

1. Minutes of Meeting on November 4, 2024

Dr. Pape asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meetings held on November 4. A member made a motion and another member seconded. All were in favor and none were opposed. The minutes of both meetings were approved as written.

2. Committee Reports

- a. Academic Standards Committee – met on November 13, 2024
 - There was discussion about whether the current standing sub-committee structure is still relevant.
- b. Budget/Grievance Committee – met November 25, 2024
 - 90 Travel grants have been ranked. This is the first time the new automated collection process was used as well as the new rubric for ranking. Yongabi Ngoh took the lead on the project, and he did an outstanding job.
- c. Diversity Committee – met on November 18, 2024
 - The Clark Fellowship application is now online and the new rubric is in place.
- d. Professional Development Committee – met on November 20, 2024
 - Graduate Excellence Awards are currently being reviewed. Twenty-nine applications were received for Research, which is the largest award category; 24 applications were

received for Teaching; and nine applications were received for Service/Outreach. Thirty-five students in total will receive awards.

The question was raised as to whether there could be an increase in the number of awards granted as well as adding a category. Dean Deak is open to the possibility of both.

3. Report from the Dean

Dean Deak reported that the staff in the Graduate School has been busy. He is still learning and observing the various cycles in the department. He was pleased with the changes made to the Clark Fellowship through re-evaluation of the program. He anticipates more changes in the coming year. Graduate Council has been invaluable in many of the Graduate School processes, and he appreciates the input and efforts of its members.

4. For Discussion: Graduate Admissions

- Holistic Review of Graduate Applications. Dean Deak would like to take a more holistic approach to the graduate admission process. This is not due to any incident or concern but rather to move toward a more fair and equitable direction.

A brief presentation of a proposed annual review process was shared with the committee. A rubric for evaluation is being developed so the review process is uniform, with the intent of circulating in early Spring 2025. The intent is to be transparent, have standardized processes for review of doctoral students, and to start conversations around that approach. The Graduate School is encouraging departments and programs to take a proactive approach rather than a reactive response once a problem exists. After the first year of implementation, the committee will review what worked, what didn't, what needs to be added, and what needs to be revised.

- Growth in Doctoral Programs. There has been no appreciable growth in total doctoral degrees conferred in the last ten years. To move forward, we will need to increase recruitment and reduce time-to-degree. Dean Deak asked the committee members to consider the following questions: Does your program have the capacity and desire to grow? What is preventing program growth? What resources do you need to grow?

Dean Deak asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A member made a motion and another member seconded the motion. All were in favor and none were opposed. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

*****Next Meeting: Monday, February 3, 2025 ~ 3:30-4:30 p.m. ~ AD-148*****