

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

March 25, 2016

The Graduate Council met at 2:00 p.m. in Ingram 101. Interim Dean Jackie Eller presided.

I. Call to Order

Members present:

Vishwas Bedekar, Virginia Dansby, Bichaka Fayissa, Richard Meeks, Pamela Morris, Lynn Nelson, Monica Wallace, Jeremy Winters, Michelle Fields, and Cliff Welborn.

Ex-Officio/ Guests present:

Jackie Eller, Interim Dean, College of Graduate Studies and Vice Provost for Research

II. Announcements

a. Dr. Jackie Eller, Interim Dean, College of Graduate Studies & Vice Provost of Research

- Dean Eller opened the meeting at 2:01 p.m.
- It is noted that there was not a quorum and thus the council met only for discussion.
- Dean Eller informed the council that she will be requesting additional student travel funds in next year's budget. She also asked the council to consider and put to the programs whether or not the library is sufficiently meeting their research needs. This is considered such that funds can be put towards the appropriate areas during budgeting.

III. Approval of Minutes from last meeting – February 26th, 2016

The minutes were distributed to the Graduate Council for review. No motion was made.

IV. Sub-Committee Reports

a. Graduate Faculty and Curriculum Review

Dr. Cliff Welborn, Chair

- The March Consent Calendar is attached.

b. Student Affairs and Travel

Dr. Kathleen Darby, Chair

c. Policies and Procedures

Dr. Jeremy Winters, Chair

- Graduate Faculty Membership policy revisions mentioned at the last Graduate Council meeting were discussed. The subcommittee submitted a revised document to the council for consideration. This document outlined the general requirements of the College of Graduate Studies regarding graduate faculty membership. Sections 'A' and 'B' were not edited but section 'C' was rewritten to be a mixture of publications and presentations rather than the miscellaneous

'other' category as it had been. The revision also stipulated that it will be mandated that programs either adopt said requirements exclusively or develop their own criteria for those individuals falling outside these requirements. The suggested time frame for specifying criteria is October 2016 with implementation to occur no later than Fall 2017. Implementation term could be left up to the department by way of a check box on the form used to specify criteria. With this specification of criteria for other scholarly activity, programs would begin vetting their faculty's application for graduate faculty status prior to sending them to the College of Graduate Studies. The applications would come in the form of a packet with a cover memo on top stating the names of all faculty applications that the program would approve for graduate faculty. Programs choosing to accept EXCLUSIVELY the College of Graduate Studies criteria would send over completed applications only.

- It is suggested by Dr. Welborn that the Faculty and Curriculum subcommittee needs to consider what this change would mean operationally and report back to the council.
- Additionally, it was noted that no clear policy is in place for individuals who are new hires and have had their PhD fewer than 5 years. These individuals may have difficulty meeting the requirements for graduate faculty. To address this is was suggested that new hires be subjected to the same requirements as established faculty unless the program specifies and set of criteria for such applicants. A shorter active term was proposed as a way to grant graduate faculty status but still encourage new faculty members to engage in scholarly activity befitting a graduate faculty member. In order to help the Faculty and Curriculum subcommittee distinguish newer PhD's, an additional segment may be added to the application page that requests the number of years that an individual has held their terminal degree.
- A document regarding academic standards of retention, probation, and suspension was also submitted to the council. It outlined the changes to the policy discussed at the previous council meeting. Time estimates are still needed for appeals due dates.

d. Graduate Program Review
Dr. Bichaka Fayissa, Chair

V. **Old Business**

VI. **New Business**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.