



Graduate Council

Minutes—May 14, 2015

2:00 pm - Academic Affairs Conference RM 239

Members Present: Kirk Atkinson, Andrea Paganelli, Ferhan Atici, Cheryl Davis, Lance Hahn, Eric Reed, Angie Jerome, Shannon Vaughn, Eve Main, Kurt Neelly, Beverly Siegrist, Molly Kerby, Carl Fox

Members Absent: Phillip Coleman, Minwoo Lee, Blake Ditto, Kristin Wilson, Marge Maxwell, David Kerr, Robert Beverly, Dori Norman, Emily Bouchard, Andrew Rosa, Kelsey Burton

Guests Present: Colette Chelf, Julie Harris, Scott Gordon, Laura Upchurch, Janet Applin, Cathleen Webb, Danita Kelley, Larry Snyder, Andrew McMichael, Tiffany Robinson, Keith Andrew, Michael Carini, Bob Hatfield

Meeting presided by Vice Chair Lance Hahn.

I. Consideration of the April 23, 2014 minutes *Siegrist/Main motion to approve; passed

II. Reports

- a. Graduate Faculty Report *Atkinson/Kerby motion to approve, passed; update that KIIS faculty will comply with graduate faculty status requirement.
- b. Policy Committee Report: Senate Charter Revisions *Siegrist reported that amendment to Senate Charter accepted by Senate Executive Committee and would be presented as second reading today at Senate; also Graduate Council added to paragraph in Senate Charter listing standing committees; Atkinson commented that progress had been made after many years of discussion and happy with plan for Graduate Council to become a standing committee of Senate; Hahn agreed that stability is good for all involved and focus should be on improved graduate programs rather than administration.
- c. Graduate Dean's Report *Fox presented 2013-2014 Annual Report; Reed requested formal evaluation and review of Graduate Student Fellowships; Fox agreed to send out selection information; Neelly stated the grants, GAs, and fellowships are all monies available to students and application and selection are elusive; Jerome questioned inability to divide graduate assistantship appointment between teaching/research/general; Fox clarified that could divide for single student; Siegrist stated many inequities in distribution; Jerome stated many good students lost without funding; Webb stated all programs need more funding; Fox stated money allocated for graduate student funding has shrunk each year and the normal distribution to colleges has remained the same; Kerby asked if money would be same or less for 2015-2016; Fox intends to honor commitments; Jerome questioned 2016-17 budget; Fox all departments will take a 2.8% cut including the Graduate School which must include graduate research; Siegrist not logical to push for more graduate programs, students, and research and continue to cut budget; Neelly DPT students cannot pay tuition with maximized subsidized loan; Hahn questioned \$15,000 for single fellowship and if assistantship appointments should consider quantity or quality; Fox indicated flexibility in stipend amounts as recommended by college deans; Fox state a 6 member faculty review this year to distribute fellowship money; Atkinson commented that every fellowship application was different and hard to compare, need less complex way to apply and review; Siegrist agreed; Atici compared to NSF grant selection and should provide feedback; Fox stated he had served on those types of committees and would formalize this process if Grad Council wanted; Atici stated application should be in second year; Fox clarified could be first year student; Atici not what application said; Reed need to establish review process for Graduate student Fellowships; Fox will send; Reed stated that individuals who selected these were never in same room to review; Jerome questioned if they were rated and ranked; Fox yes; Reed need to look at process; Fox agreed but will take time to complete a new process; Reed agreed and need to pursue; Vaughan questioned if Grad Council should review process or applications; Reed process;

Atici what is follow-up on those who have received fellowship; Fox planning to assess and maybe don't want to have a fellowship program; Jerome/Atkinson need to evaluate early in year; Hahn/Neelly what is intent, purpose and objective of fellowship program; Fox to build a community of scholars; Hahn how is fellowship money better than giving money to the departments for graduate assistantships; Fox because graduate assistantship money is not being used for student research; Jerome questioned how Fox knows what the student is doing; Hatfield agreed that Graduate School cannot monitor every student in every department and should be assessed after appointment; McMichael questioned if Fox was objecting the explanation on the application for student work; Fox yes; Webb agreed that programs should be able to describe student responsibilities; Jerome gave example of student who is wanted by four faculty and his faculty assignment will determine his work; Snyder commented that this work could be generally described, however all students will not have measurable outcome; Atkinson issue is surrounding the process, could provide assignment information after student is assigned but not before; Fox also questioned administrative assistants signing agreement forms rather than faculty; Fox how is money distributed in colleges; Hatfield send request to faculty; Jerome receive allocation from college dean; Webb, dean makes decisions in Ogden based on department needs; Siegrist department heads make decisions; Fox questioned if Graduate Council like to make recommendation to the Dean's; Neelly we can make recommendation to Dean Fox prior to allocation to the colleges; Webb questioned theses at the end of the report for two years; Chelf confirmed that full year 2013 and full year 2014; Chelf reported 74 theses and dissertations, a record number, will be published for spring 2015, also the titles will be printed on the graduate transcripts; Webb stated the quality of theses are trending up and the earlier deadline is now allowing students the opportunity to prepare publications of their completed thesis at the end of term.

III. New Business

- a. 2015-16 Officer Elections *Kerby/Siegrist nominated Kurt Neelly for chair; Siegrist motion nominations cease; passed; *Kerby/Atkinson nominated Shannon Vaughan for vice-chair elect; passed
- b. Committee Membership *tabled until August meeting
- c. Curriculum

Action	<p>Create a New Course PHYS 799 Doctoral Research Contact Person: Vladimir Dobrokhov, vladimir.dobrokhov@wku.edu, 5-4357 *Atkinson/Davis motion to approve; Dobrokhov described agreement with UofL for research students in physics; friendly amendment to change hours to 1-10 hours; Chelf questioned if they would be visiting students; Webb questioned if they would be in the labs and if so they should be enrolled in a research course; Dobrokhov stated they would be enrolled; Chelf questioned implementation not until 2016-2017; friendly amendment to change to spring 2016; Neelly questioned creating a class not part of a program; Chelf confirmed courses exist outside of degree programs; Neelly questioned if should have agreement that students from Louisville would be able to use these credits toward degree at UofL; Davis stated been done before; Chelf commented that prerequisite listed will need a faculty override and relayed that prerequisite checking for graduate courses will be in effect beginning winter 2016; passed.</p>
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IV. Public Comment

V. Announcements/Adjourn *Atkinson motion to adjourn.