

University Graduate Council Meeting Minutes
Richards Hall, VPAA Conference Room
August 12, 2016 – 11:05 a.m. – 12:55 p.m.
Minutes submitted by Dr. Greg Blalock

Dr. Margie Yates, Chair (COEHP)

Dr. Andres Jauregui(TCOB)

Dr. Scott Harris (COA)

Dr. Sarah Bowman (COLS) - for Dr. John Ellisor

Dr. Kevin Burgess (COLS)

Dr. Nicholas Bolden (COLS)

Dr. Greg Blalock (COEHP)

Dr. Tamara Condrey (COEHP)

Dr. Ellen Roberts (AA)

Dr. Tina Butcher (AA)

Dr. Wayne Summers (TCOB), guest

Topics

Item 1. Welcome, Lunch, and New Policy Proposal for CPSC Graduate Students (New Business, Dr. Wayne Summers)

Dr. Summers proposed a policy that would establish a limit of less than 12 hours as the number of graduate hours that computer science graduate students can take during a semester. This would be intended to address the problem of graduate students taking on too many hours during a particular semester (i.e., to reduce the number of semesters they need to complete) and, as a result, either doing poorly in their coursework or engaging in academic misconduct (i.e., plagiarizing) in order to stay abreast of their coursework. He suggested this can be particularly problematic for foreign students who have a real incentive to complete their degree in as a quick a time as possible to reduce their overall cost of living expenses related to school (i.e., less time needing to pay room and board, etc.). Currently there are many graduate students who are taking 12 or more hours and then end up doing poorly or failing out. This proposed solution would be a general policy except for those students who meet particular criteria (i.e., related to academic ability, history of success).

Dr. Yates wondered if such a policy might needlessly penalize good students who can handle such a load. Dr. Roberts pointed out that 12 hours is not considered an overload for graduate students, so it could be problematic to limit students to a number below that which is considered an overload. She suggested that this was an issue to be dealt with via graduate student advisement rather than a general policy. Dr. Jauregui is concerned with whether or not this would address the underlying problem of student engaging in academic misconduct.

Dr. Jauregui moved that we deny the proposal based on these problematic issues. Dr. Bolden seconded the motion. Vote: 6 (deny request) 0 (favor request), 1 (abstain)

Item 2. Approval of Minutes.

The council approved the July meeting minutes with minor corrections. Dr. Blalock moved to approve the minutes with changes (Second: Dr. Jauregui). Vote: 6-0 to approve.

Item 3. Report from Associate Provost for Graduate Studies.

Fall, 2016 Graduate enrollment up to 1470 and is expected to exceed the goal of 1503, which is encouraging.

Graduate assistant training is schedule for next Friday, August 19 (9:00-2:00). This training is designed for new and returning graduate assistants, so all are encouraged to see that their graduate assistants attend. Council members should share this info with their colleagues within their college. This training will include issues related to how to be successful as a GA, balance work load, etc. Supervisors must count this training time as a part of the student's work time for that week.

Policy regarding hiring of graduate assistants is currently at 10% max per program (for access to university-based tuition waivers). That is, programs can hire up to 10% of their graduate students as graduate assistants with a university-based tuition waiver. This limit of 10% per program can be problematic for some programs who could use more tuition waivers while other programs have some tuition waivers to give up (i.e., that go unused). Thus, the Provost's office is considering a suggested change to that policy that would set a more broad policy and allow for some flexibility in how tuition waivers can be assigned across programs. The policy discussed was that the university can hire a maximum of 8% of their graduate students using university-based tuition waivers. These tuition waivers within each college can be split among the various programs in a more flexible way to address those needs of individual programs better. It is thought that a more flexible use of tuition waivers might support graduate enrollment because fewer waivers may go unused. This proposal was discussed simply to gain feedback from the council, not as something to be voted on yet.

Item 3: Old Business.

SACSOC Update: There has been a change in how substantive changes to programs are defined (expanded view) and what is required to be approved by SACS. Substantive changes that are required to go through SACS require \$500 per change and require a lengthy turn-around. One such change to note relates to programs that incorporate more online components. Programs that increase (or reduce) the number of online hours in a way that affects 1-49% of the total program require no SACS approval. Those that modify over 49% of the program require a new prospectus.

Update on Proposed Date Change for Graduate Student Tuition Payment: John McElveen (Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management) is in favor of this. Currently working with Bursar's office and others to implement such a policy.

Approval of Graduate Faculty: The council approved seven faculty members at the full level and thirteen faculty at the provisional level. One application was returned for lack of information related to teaching effectiveness.

Item 4: New Business.

Election of New Secretary: Not addressed

Item 5: Announcements.

Gregory Domin Graduate Conference: Currently receiving several applications from outside the university to present at the conference (i.e., 20+ from the Savannah area). This is a good time to encourage people to attend.

Upcoming Visitation Days; Kristin will send out dates.

Adjournment – 12:55 p.m.