

**Graduate Council
September 13, 2013
208 Thurmond
Minutes**

Members present: Jennifer Jordan (COE, chair), Tom Stanley (CVPA), Megan Fleagle (CVPA, student), Tom Polaski (CAS), Brent Cagle (CAS), Melissa Carsten (CBA, vice-chair), Michael Lipscomb (CAS), Ronnie Faulkner (Dacus), and Spiro Shetuni (Dacus).

Guests present: Sue Lyman (GFA chair), Gina Jones (R/R), Jack DeRochi (Dean, Graduate School), and April Lovegrove

- I. Announcements: Online Letters of Recommendation are now available on the electronic application for programs that require them. Graduate School Fall Social is Wednesday, October 9 from 5-7 pm in the Rutledge Gallery. Thesis Orientations will be held September 18 & 19th in Kinard 015 at 6:30 pm.
- II. Minutes approved from the Graduate Council meeting on August 27, 2013.
- III. Report from the Dean

Graduate Assistant Categories: Dean DeRochi provided details of the different GA categories that are being discussed. Most of the new categories are moving towards pure stipend to make budgeting more streamlined. This model does not require departments to keep up with tuition hikes. Expertise and background are the separating factors between graduate assistant and graduate associate. The Graduate School is requesting a budget returned to the original \$200,000 that was originally available to fund the different categories required. The Graduate School will also try to provide additional out of state grants for programs. Some questions that still need to be addressed: How to operationalize the process in case students need to use the stipend to pay their tuition? Can students have the choice of stipend or tuition payment? How do we define expertise? The goal is to use the new model for recruitment in the spring. Two additional ideas are being developed: 1) Supplemental instruction at the undergraduate level and 2) Community Assistantships

- IV. Old Business
None.
- V. New Business

A. Graduate Council Priorities

1. The possibility of requiring a fee from students to hold their place once accepted. There is currently no commitment from the student and for cohort programs this can be problematic when trying to schedule courses. The fee would go towards their tuition.
2. Address faculty summer pay: graduate courses do not always make required enrollment for full pay.
3. The Center for Career and Civic Engagement has a policy that if a school pays the fee for attending the career fair but does not come to the actual fair, they

can come to campus at any time (with prior approval) to advertise their programs. This puts our home programs at a disadvantage as they feel like they must compete more than once.

4. Michael Lipscomb discussed the need for programs to better market the skills that they develop in students that potential employers want but that parents may see as unnecessary, especially at the Humanities level.

5. Jennifer Jordan would like to improve involvement at the graduate faculty level. Do we need less meetings or different types of meetings depending on what is being discussed? Is graduate faculty assembly required to have a certain number of meetings a year? Online voting? Dr. Jordan agreed to do some more research on this topic and report more at the next meeting.

6. This did bring up the discussion of Graduate Faculty Status and what it means to be a part of the Graduate Faculty Assembly. Should some sort of specific reporting be added to annual report forms? Sue Lyman will add this issue for further discussion during the next Graduate Faculty Assembly meeting.

7. Tom Stanley asked about North Carolina's new bill regarding pay raises for teachers with masters degrees. Currently, they must finish degree by May 7 if already enrolled to qualify for the pay raise. Since this is just prior to commencement, WU will provide letters for those students certifying the classes taken. This will/has impacted enrollment.

8. Academic misconduct at the graduate level is sometimes different than what the language that the dean of students uses from the undergraduate level. At the grad level, it relates more to professional disposition. Disposition is important here especially with programs that work with the public and those that have professional ethical licensure. Currently there is no way to remove a student from a program without allowing them an appeal process. Dean DeRochi will work with Dean Rakestraw and Lisa Cowart (HR) on a process to remove a student from a program for reasons of disposition similar to the policy developed and implemented last year for academic misconduct.

B. Graduate Faculty Status: Two faculty from COB were denied as they did not meet the one year teaching requirement as they are new faculty effective Fall 2013.

VI. Graduate Petition Committee. Petition was approved.

Future meeting dates.

October 25, Friday, 2:00 pm: Thurmond 208

December 3, Tuesday, 11:00 am (petitions only): Thurmond 208

February 7, Friday, 2:00 pm: Thurmond 208

April 4, Friday, 2:00 pm: Thurmond 208

April 29, Tuesday, 11:00 am (petitions only): Thurmond 208