

## UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL

### MINUTES

March 20, 2024

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Romney 102

#### Council in Attendance:

Marc Giullian (Business)  
Scott Powell (Agriculture)  
Christopher Livingston (Architecture)  
Brennan Reeves (Office of International Programs)  
Catherine Dunlop (Letters)  
Sweeney Windchief (Education)  
Stephanie McCalla (Faculty Senate)  
Amy Reines (Sciences)  
Rollin Beamish (Arts)  
Katey Franklin (Health & Human Development)  
Stephan Warnat (Engineering)  
Brian Rossmann (Library)

#### Also in Attendance:

Lauren Cerretti (Graduate School)  
Emily Peters (Graduate School)

#### Absent

Wade Hill (Nursing)  
Heidi Koenig (Student Representative)  
Craig Ogilvie (Dean of The Graduate School)

Meeting started at 10:34 a.m.

#### **February 21, 2024 minutes**

- Motion to approve by Beamish, Livingston 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimous pass

#### **Announcements**

- Faculty Senate update (McCalla)
  - Second reading on Eligibility for Assistantships and Academic Standing today. Concerns raised at first reading about Academic Standing:
    - Clarification on not basing a decision on one item. Does this contradict comprehensive exam policy? If you fail your comps a 2<sup>nd</sup> time, does committee not have to meet again to dismiss the student?
      - Currently, student is automatically dismissed from the program after a 2<sup>nd</sup> fail

- Revised language contradicts the comprehensive exam policy
  - Could interpret second attempt at the exam as more than one item
  - Language could be clarified to more user friendly for departments
  - Policy came up due to departments using qualifying exams to dismiss students, policy shifts to a more holistic process
  - Multiple departments shared opposition to this revised policy
  - Faculty Senate will discuss today, can take their feedback, and potentially revise
- Board of Regents meeting last week: discussion on student mental health
- McCalla will check on status of retired faculty serving on graduate committees
- Update from The Graduate School
  - GradCat Summit on April 12<sup>th</sup> – professional development event for graduate students. Schedule and RSVP is available online.
  - Wellness Week the first week of April: Empowerment Week
  - Question: can we revisit the guidance for prospective student visits? Funding for group visits in person.
    - Departments can apply for funding, usually is partial funding from GS and department provides some funding

#### Old Business

- Increasing UGC student membership: updates from governance subcommittee
  - Updated language: 3 full time graduate students in good standing....
    - Suggest adding up to 3
  - One year could be repeatable
    - Ideally there would be an overlap, learning period with a returning student rep and a new student rep
  - Appointment process?
    - Could work the same way as faculty representatives, appointed by college
  - Suggest taking out full time language
    - Graduate student in good standing
  - Up to 3 with a one year term being repeatable, must be in good standing
  - Subcommittee will revise and send out draft
- Reserved limit for accelerated programs
  - Current limit is 12 credits, proposal removes limit
  - Discussion on the difference of undergraduate and graduate students in classes
    - Students must be junior standing and have 3.25 GPA to reserve credits
  - Grad School trying to provide policy that is meaningful for all departments: removes limit, which allows department to set their own limit
  - In the case of a rare circumstance of more than 12 reserved credits, students could appeal to have it approved; seems like it would be so rare – exception not the rule
  - Concerned there may be unintended consequences of completely removing the limit
  - Revisit discussion at next meeting with Dean Ogilvie

- Appeals policy
  - Subcommittee still working on revised draft

#### **Updates from subcommittees**

- Continued work on AI guidance with CFE
  - College of Engineering feedback: recommend reevaluating the guidance each year because the technology is changing so quickly
- Curriculum committee: reviewing and approving courses and program updates in CiM
- Q: Is there any possibility of reserving housing and/or childcare in offer letter to grad students?
- Any chance of health services being available to families?
  - No, OIP looked into this—there was an issue with institutional liability.

#### **Public comment**

Adjourned at 11:26 am

Next scheduled meeting – April 3<sup>rd</sup> in Romney Hall 102