

Executive Council of Graduate Faculty

August 28th, 2015, 2:00–4:00pm
210 Strong Hall, CLAS conference room

Presiding: Michael C. Roberts

Members present: Mahasweta Banerjee, Monica Biernat, Apurba Dutta, Ahreum Maeng, Mahbub Rashid, Paul Scott, Milena Stanislavova, Sara Wilson

Staff: Amanda Ostreko, Amber Roberts Graham

AGENDA

1. Announcements
 2. Review of minutes: May 15th, 2015
 3. Administrative Discussion
 - a. Standing Committees
 - b. Bold Aspirations and Beyond
 - c. Funding Innovations
 4. Policies and Initiatives for 2015-2016
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1. Announcements

Dean Roberts opened the meeting at 2:09 pm, announced staff and office changes in Graduate Studies, introduced Amanda and Amber, and welcomed the new members of the Executive Council.

Dean Roberts announced a relatively successful trial run for a new fundraising initiative through KU Endowment.

Dean Roberts announced that the Executive Council will begin its work with Program Review in summer or fall of 2016.

Dean Roberts announced that Graduate Studies will be developing a new Graduate Support Staff award.

Dean Roberts announced that Chancellor Gray-Little approved the proposal to discontinue the inactive academic program, Doctor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering, effective in summer of 2015.

Assistant Dean Ostreko announced that Graduate Studies will circulate information and an application form for new funds to develop recruitment of graduate students of underrepresented minorities.

Dean Roberts announced that Graduate Studies will seek a representative from the School of the Arts to replace John Staniunas on the Executive Council.

2. Review of minutes: April 24th, 2015

Dean Roberts asked the Council to review the May minutes. The attendance list was corrected and the minutes were approved.

Updated minutes are available on the Executive Council of Graduate Faculty website:
<http://www.graduate.ku.edu/executive-council-graduate-faculty>

Dean Roberts reviewed the Year End Report for 2014-2015.

3. Administrative Discussion

a) Standing Committees:

Assistant Dean Ostreko explained that Graduate Studies would like to streamline the work done by subcommittees within the Executive Council and to make the process of establishing committees more efficient. To do so, Graduate Studies has adapted the subcommittee structure used by the College, and is asking each member of the Executive Council to serve on one subcommittee. Descriptions of the committees, including workload and scheduling requirements, are included in the packet. Following discussion, all members present indicated their preferred committees.

b) Bold Aspirations and Beyond

Dean Roberts asked the Executive Council to consider how Graduate Studies ought to proceed after this final year of Bold Aspirations. We will need to rise to the challenge of setting audacious goals in a climate of fiscal constraints.

c) Funding Innovations Report

The Funding Innovations Committee's final report was finalized and published over the summer of 2015. It was well received by Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Rosen because it included an explicit action plan in which the Dean of Graduate Studies took responsibility for many of the recommended initiatives.

4. Policies and Initiatives for 2015-2016

Dean Roberts offered an overview of the policies and initiatives the Executive Council will address during the 2015-2016 academic year. These include drafting Executive Council By-Laws, Adopting a Medical Leave and Childbirth Accommodation Policy, Adopting a Mediated Attendance Policy for graduate exams, developing resources for Underrepresented Minority Recruitment, clarifying the Master's Committee Composition Policy, re-considering the Post-Comprehensive Enrollment Policy, re-considering the Graduate Faculty categories, encouraging the schools to develop Annual Student Evaluation and Mentoring Plans, developing a Three-Minute Thesis Competition to increase the visibility of master's programs, assessing the next steps concerning sexual assault and harassment among graduate students, and revisiting Measurable Metrics.

Dean Roberts adjourned the meeting at 3:12 pm.

Appendix: Committee Composition (so far)

Policies and Program Petitions

Paul Scott

Sara Wilson

Monica Biernat

ONE SPACE OPEN

Program and Curricular Changes

Mahbub Rashid

THREE SPACES OPEN

Scholarships, Fellowships, and Awards

Apurba Dutta

Milena Stanislavova

Ahreum Maeng

Mahasweta Banerjee

SUBCOMMITTEE CLOSED

Respectfully submitted,
Amber Roberts