

Executive Council of Graduate Faculty

August 29th, 2014, 2:00 – 4:00pm
CLAS Conference Room, 210 Strong Hall

Presiding: Michael C. Roberts

Members present: Monica Biernat, Promothesh Chatterjee, James Daugherty, Van Kelly, Brian Laird, Steve Kapp, Tien-Tsung Lee (*in place of Scott Reinardy*), Sandra Olsen (*in place of Ben Chappell*), Mahbub Rashid, John Staniunas, and Sara Wilson

Staff: Austin Fitts and Roberta Pokphanh

AGENDA

1. Announcements
 - a) Welcome to the new members for 2014-2017
 - b) Charge of the Executive Council of Graduate Faculty
 - c) Names change in CLAS
 - d) Program review
2. Review of minutes
 - a) May 16th, 2014
 - b) Year-end report 2013-2014
3. New programs
 - a) Global MBA: joint degree between CGIS/CLAS and the School of Business
 - b) Fast track degree: BS Engineering/MS Bioengineering
4. Policy review:
 - a) Graduate Studies Representative
 - b) Doctoral Student Oral Exam Committee Composition
 - c) Dissertation Chair Status for Graduate Faculty

1. Announcements made by the Dean of Graduate Studies

Dean Roberts opened the meeting at 2:02pm and announced the new membership on the Council: Sara Wilson is a new member for the School of Engineering. James Daugherty returns for the School of Music. Monica Biernat returns to the Council after serving previously for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences – Division of Social Sciences. Tien-Tsung Lee returns in fall 2014 in the place of Scott Reinardy, a new member from the School of Journalism. Sandra Olsen is new to the Council, serving in place of Ben Chappell in fall 2014 and spring 2015 for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences – International and Interdisciplinary Studies.

Dean Roberts provided the Council with details on the charge to the Executive Council and a name change that took place in the College. The Executive Council showed support for the change from the Center for Bioinformatics to the Center for Computational Biology. Dean Roberts also briefly discussed the upcoming review of Graduate programs and the connection between the Lawrence campus and the KU Medical Center campus.

2. Review of minutes: May 16th, 2014 meeting and the 2013-2014 year-end report

Dean Roberts opened the floor for questions about the minutes from the May 16th, 2014, as well as the 2013-2014 year-end report of the Council. The motion to approve the minutes and the year-end report carried unanimously.

Updated minutes as well as the year-end report are available on the Executive Council website:
<http://www.graduate.ku.edu/executive-council-graduate-faculty>

3. New programs

- a) Global MBA: joint degree between CGIS/CLAS and the School of Business

Dean Roberts welcomed Professor Wuthrich from the Center for Global and International Studies and provided the Council with some history on the proposal. Dean Roberts noted how the proposal document addressed previous concerns of the Council.

Dean Roberts asked how students will apply to the joint program, and Professor Wuthrich indicated that the students will apply separately to both programs and have two degrees conferred upon graduation. There were questions from the Council regarding how admission decisions are made and the effect of reducing both degrees. Professor Wuthrich addressed the Council's questions and how credits are reduced in each degree program.

There were no objections and the Council voted unanimously to approve the joint program.

- b) Fast track degree: BS Engineering/MS Bioengineering
Dean Roberts welcomed Professor Wilson as the representative of the new fast-track program. The Council raised discussion on the definition of a fast-track degree and Professor Wilson discussed the framework of the program, including details on the existing undergraduate degrees offered in Engineering. The Council also raised the issue of double counting credit hours toward two degree programs and Assistant Dean Pokphanh provided background.

There were no objections and the Council unanimously approved the new fast-track program.

The Council shared that allowing the College and all of the professional schools to review fast-track programs is valuable and the Council decided to continue voting on these proposals.

4. Policy review:

- a) Graduate Studies Representative
Dean Roberts provided a brief history on the Graduate Studies representative policy and how this role was formerly referred to as the Outside committee member. Dean Roberts discussed conflict of interest and outlined the changes in the current draft.

The Council discussed alternative language on the number of members required from the department, the number of courtesy faculty allowed, concerns regarding programs that are not considered departments, and how committee members can develop a conflict during their years on a committee. Dean Roberts discussed the need to retain the conflict of interest goals in the policy.

There were no objections and the Council unanimously approved the new policy.

- b) Doctoral exam committee composition
Dean Roberts discussed cleaning up policies since they were moved from the Graduate catalog to the online Policy Library and also indicated that the College and professional schools are allowed to create language that is more stringent than Graduate Studies policy.

There were no objections and the Council unanimously approved the new policy.

- c) Dissertation Chair Status for Graduate Faculty
The Council discussed the evaluation of Dissertation Graduate Faculty status.

Dean Roberts thanked the Council for their time and adjourned the meeting at 3:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Austin Fitts