

## Executive Council of Graduate Faculty

Minutes for 29 January 2016

**Present:** Dean Michael C. Roberts (Chair), Norman Akers, Mahasweta Banerjee, Ben Chappell, Apurba Dutta, Andy Fry, Ahreum Maeng, Mahbub Rashid, Milena Stanislavova, Michael Werle (by phone), Assistant Dean Amanda Ostreko (Staff), Amber Roberts Graham (Staff)

**Absent:** Monica Biernat, James Daugherty, Scott Reinardy, Paul Scott, Robert Klein

**Also present:** Sarah Beth Kirk, Nancy Hamilton, Molly Zahn, Jessy Carolina Ayestas Hernandez (Staff)

**Called to Order: 2:02 pm**

### Announcements

- Dean Roberts welcomed Professor Andy Fry, who is serving as a substitute for Professor Aaron Clopton this semester.
- Dean Roberts welcomed our new Graduate Studies intern, Jessy Carolina Ayestas Hernandez.
- Dean Roberts announced that this will be the final semester for some of our members.
  1. Mahasweta Banerjee (Social Welfare)
  2. Ben Chappell (CLAS — Social and Behavioral Sciences)
  3. Aaron Clopton (School of Education)
  4. Mahbub Rashid (School of Architecture)
  5. Michael Werle (KUMC Faculty Representative)
  6. Dean Roberts explained how the election process will proceed over the course of the spring semester, and clarified that members are eligible to serve consecutive terms if they wish.
- Dean Roberts announced that, beginning in spring 2016, New Program Proposals will be circulated to the Council when they go out for Dean's Review.
  - He explained that our goals in implementing this process are two-fold:
    - \* To provide advance notice to Executive Council Members regarding proposals they will see within a few weeks
    - \* To provide circulation parallel to the Dean's Review process, allowing Executive Council Members to offer feedback to their Deans if something about a proposal catches their eye
  - Normally, the Dean's Review process is allowed a window of two weeks, so we will circulate this information by email in between Executive Council Meetings.
- Dean Roberts advised the Council that its recent discussions concerning academic professional development sites, such as academia.edu and ResearchGate remain timely, as these organizations are receiving media attention, some of it negative.

## Review of Minutes

- The previous meetings' minutes were approved pending one minor edit to the attendance listed.

## New Program Proposals

- Graduate Certificate in Health Psychology
  - *Representative: Professors Sarah Kirk and Nancy Hamilton*
  - Professors Kirk and Hamilton joined the Council to introduce a new Graduate Certificate proposal in Health Psychology and field questions.
    1. The Council discussed the accessibility of the program and its course work, its formal home within the institution, and the appeal and availability of this kind of program.
- Graduate Certificate in Religious Studies
  - *Representative: Professor Molly Zahn*
  - Professor Zahn joined the Council to introduce a new Graduate Certificate proposal in Religious Studies and field questions.
    1. The Council discussed the appeal and value the certificate offers KU, as well as the program's structure and flexibility.

## Council Discussion and Vote on New Program Proposals

- The Council unanimously approved the proposal for a new Graduate Certificate in Health Psychology, pending minor clarifications to the university admissions policies.
- The Council discussed and unanimously approved the proposal for a new Graduate Certificate in Religious Studies, pending minor clarifications to the university admissions policies.

## Administrative Discussion

- Online MS in Pharmacology and Toxicology
  - *Representative: Dean Michael C. Roberts*
  - Dean Roberts advised the Council that the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology has proposed creating an online version of an existing MS program.
    1. In keeping with the preferences expressed by the Executive Council in 2014, we provided the documentation for the Council's perusal and discussion, but will not conduct a formal review and approval.
    2. The Council discussed preferred approaches in the event that they notice something amiss in this kind of proposal, generally.
    3. The Council also asked for clarification about some aspects of how this proposal addresses the challenges of online graduate education.

- Program Review
  - *Representative: Dean Michael C. Roberts*
  - We are in the process of developing strategies for carrying out program review over the coming years. We can expect to begin reviewing materials for the initial departments within the next several months. Graduate Studies will develop a rubric for the Council reviewers to use when examining and reporting on programs under review.
    1. Chair's Notes: We got some additional insight and information during our meeting this morning....
- Dean Roberts advised the Council about expectations and timelines concerning Program Review and invited discussion about preferred approaches and processes.
- Dean Roberts announced the establishment of a Graduate Student Emergency Fund, patterned off of similar funds at many of KU's peer and aspirational peer institutions.
  - He explained that the fund will have a small amount of money available right away, and for use each year, while the majority of the establishing funds will be invested to grow the fund.
  - He also explained that the fund will accept additional donations, and Graduate Studies will begin soliciting for those shortly.
  - The Council voiced enthusiastic support for the idea, and discussed approaches to awarding and distributing funds.

**Next Meeting:** 26 February 2016 at 2:00 pm