

Executive Council of Graduate Faculty

Minutes for 28 October 2016

Present: Dean Michael C. Roberts (Chair), Norman Akers, James Daugherty, Thomas DeLuca, Apurba Dutta, Marie-Alice L'Heureux, Scott Reinardy, Paul Scott, Milena Stanislavova, Sherrie Tucker, Assistant Dean Amanda Ostreko (Staff), Amber Roberts Graham (Staff)

Absent: Mahasweta Banerjee, Monica Biernat, Ahreum Maeng, Michael Werle (Ex Officio), Sara Wilson

Also present: Dina Evans, Santa Arias, Robert Walzel

Called to Order: 14:04

Announcements

- 3G Health Insurance Update
 1. Dean Roberts announced that we received good news from the federal agencies interpreting the ACA in the context of higher education, but that we still see some cause for caution.
 - KU will be permitted to continue its current practice of paying a 75% health insurance premium subsidy to eligible graduate student employees who select the student health insurance plan.
 - KU is optimistic because it appears that lobbying efforts carried out by our national organizations have paid off and because the permission to continue current practice has been granted indefinitely.
 - Overall, KU is happy with this result and will wrap up current efforts with a report on the alternatives explored so far.
 - KU did receive conflicting feedback about its response time to this issue: some people felt KU waited too long to respond and some felt KU should have waited longer.
- Dean Roberts announced more good news: for the second month in a row, a master's student in Journalism has one of the top 25 most-downloaded theses in the ProQuest database.
- Policy Revision and Proposal Updates:
 - We continue to work on the Parental Accommodation policy. It is in a final stage of review with a few more stakeholder offices and we hope to bring it before EC for a final vote shortly.
 - The 18-hour post-comprehensive enrollment policy continues to be discussed. We are very hopeful we will be able to effect some change, as this has been one of the most positively-received policy proposals Graduate Studies has put forward in some time.
 - We are in the process of drafting a formal proposal for a revision to the 5-month rule and hope it will be ready for initial EC review in November.

- The Grading and Admissions policy revisions approved at the August meeting have been fully approved and published.
- Policy revisions concerning the GA Definition have been approved by General Counsel and are awaiting Provost’s Office approval.
- Reminders:
 - Hooding is Ticketed and Registration is Required
 1. We cannot repeat this reminder enough - it is crucial to students and faculty planning to participate in the spring ceremony, so please share!
 2. Please start early with reminding and preparing students.
 3. All graduates will be limited to a maximum of 4 tickets. GS will not distribute leftover tickets or take requests for extras.
 4. GS may share any leftover tickets proportionally with the deans of the schools and College. They may choose to allocate the leftovers how they want.
 - Reminder: Please do not forget about Program Review. We would like to receive all complete review materials by 2 December.

Review of Minutes

- 30 September 2016
The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

New Program Proposals

- Dean Roberts reviewed the Executive Council’s customary procedures for the benefit of the faculty program sponsors present. Then he introduced the representatives for the following proposals and hosted discussion.
- Graduate Certificate in Latin American and Caribbean Studies
 - *Representatives: Santa Arias*
 - Professor Arias introduced a new Graduate Certificate proposal in Caribbean and Latin American Studies and fielded questions.
 1. Professor Arias explained that this certificate was designed to replace two older, narrower certificates with a broader, multi-track certificate designed to have greater content flexibility and more appeal to graduate students across a range of disciplines and fields.
 2. The idea behind the certificate is to encourage current graduate students to deepen their regional expertise and also to offer a credential to those prospective students who may not be able to commit to a full-length degree program.
 3. The Council discussed why this certificate is expected to have wider appeal and how it improves upon the older certificates it is replacing.
 4. The Council discussed the roles that faculty and graduate teaching assistants will play in offering the certificate courses.
- Graduate Certificate in Applied Mathematics

- *Representatives: Milena Stanislavova*
- Professor Stanislavova introduced a new Graduate Certificate proposal in Applied Mathematics and fielded questions.

1. Professor Stanislavova offered an overview of the certificate’s structure and rationale, emphasising that professors are already offering a large number of classes every year that would meet the certificate criteria and many students already finish their graduate careers with all or most of the requirements met.
2. The Math Department designed this certificate to both encourage students from other disciplines to pursue formal, advanced training in applied math and also to offer a credential that formally recognizes that accomplishment.

- Graduate Certificate in Music Enterprise

- *Representatives: Dina Evans and Robert Walzel*
- Dean Walzel and Professor Evans introduced a new Graduate Certificate proposal in Music Enterprise and fielded questions.

1. Professor Evans offered an overview of the rationale for the certificate program, emphasising the dramatically increased need for business skills to succeed in almost any position in the modern music industry.
2. The School of Music developed this certificate, in part, to capitalize on and formally recognize KU’s existing strength in preparing students for this facet of the music industry alongside their performance training.
3. The certificate also more formally establishes an important partnership between the Schools of Music and Business.
4. The Council discussed the probably frequency with which courses from each school would be offered, seeking to ensure that students would be able to complete all requirements in a timely fashion.
5. The Council discussed predictions for the number of students who would complete the certificate in the first five to seven years, and recommended a friendly amendment to update these figures before forwarding the proposal to the Provost’s Office review.

In-Camera Discussion and Vote on New Program Proposals

- Graduate Certificate in Latin American and Caribbean Studies
 - The Council voted unanimously to approve the proposal for a new Graduate Certificate in Latin American and Caribbean Studies.
- Graduate Certificate in Music Enterprise
 - The Council voted unanimously to approve the proposal for a new Graduate Certificate in Music Enterprise.
- Graduate Certificate in Applied Mathematics

- The Council voted unanimously to approve the proposal for a new Graduate Certificate in Applied Mathematics.

Next Meeting: 18 November 2016 — 2:00 pm in 210 Strong Hall