

Executive Council of Graduate Faculty

Minutes for 10 March 2017

Present: Dean Michael C. Roberts (Chair), Norman Akers, Mahasweta Banerjee, Monica Biernat, Thomas DeLuca, Apurba Dutta, Debra Hedden, Marie-Alice L'Heureux, Sherrie Tucker, Sara Wilson, Assistant Dean Amanda Ostreko (Staff), Amber Roberts Graham (Staff)

Absent: Ahreum Maeng, Scott Reinardy, Paul Scott, Milena Stanislavova, Michael Werle (Ex Officio)

Called to Order: 14:05

Announcements

- The Parental Accommodation Policy was fully approved earlier this week.
 1. Amber will submit it for publication as soon as possible.
 2. The Policy Office spent some time discussing the proposal with HRM and General Counsel and recommended one additional clarification under Exclusions and Special Circumstances. They asked us to be explicit that the policy does not supersede or modify any existing requirements put in place by the MOA or by federal, state, KBOR, or KU regulations.
 3. With this exception clause added, the Policy Office has received SVP Day's review and signature.
- Reminder: Hooding is Ticketed and Registration is Required
 1. Please start early with reminding and preparing students.
 2. ~~All graduates will be limited to a maximum of 4 tickets. GS will not distribute leftover tickets or take requests for extras.~~
 3. ~~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.~~
 4. Subsequent to the meeting, the Deans of the College and professional schools accepted Dean Roberts' offer to have the Office of Graduate Studies distribute any leftover tickets using a lottery system.

Review of Minutes

- 27 January 2016
The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Policy Proposals

- Application Fee Uses
 - First Reading and Discussion

1. This is a new policy proposal recording the established practices in place at KU. It is meant to identify the ways that available funds may be used, but does not address how application fees are allocated and made available.
 2. Dean Roberts requested that Council members identify any ways they use their funds that may not appear here for consideration and inclusion. Council members identified the following:
 - Recruitment “swag”
 - Recruitment parties or dinners
 - Printing and Photocopying of recruitment materials
 - Attendance at conferences for the purpose of recruitment (not just recruitment fairs)
 - Booth materials, including “swag”, tablecloths, leaflets, etc.
- Mediated Attendance
 - First Reading and Discussion
 1. This is a substantive revision of an existing policy. The policy currently on the books is outdated with respect to mediated attendance at exams, and also contains leftovers from when it also used to address committee composition. This revision focuses the policy only on mediated attendance and updates the requirements in light of data collected over the past two years. These data have helped us determine how units are currently using mediated means for exam attendance and allows to accommodate their needs without requiring exceptions in every case.
 2. Council members expressed concern about limiting mediated attendance to one committee member and discussed how to manage ever-improving technology to mitigate concerns about multiple remote members.
 3. Council members also discussed requiring a majority of committee members to be present, recommending wired rather than wireless connections, and whether to limit mediated attendance to video-only or allowing audio-only attendance.
 4. Council members affirmed that these limitations should be minima, allowing departments and schools to set stricter rules as needed.

Administrative Discussion

1. Doctoral Residency and Online Courses

- Graduate Studies policy includes a section which defines the minimum residence requirement for doctoral students.
policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/doctoral-program-time-contraints [sic]
- It states:

Two semesters, which may include one summer session, must be spent in resident study at KU. During this period, the student must be involved full time in academic or professional pursuits, which may include an appointment for teaching or research if it is directed specifically toward degree objectives.
Enrollment in approved distance learning courses offered through

KU cannot be used to meet the doctoral residency requirement. The student must be enrolled in a minimum of 6 credit hours per semester, and the increased research involvement must be fully supported and documented by the dissertation supervisor as contributing to the student's dissertation or program objectives. Research must be performed under the direct supervision of the major advisor if on campus, or with adequate liaison if off campus. [Emphasis added]

- Dean Roberts posed the questions:
 - Should approved online or distance learning courses count toward the residency requirement for doctoral students in on-ground programs?
 - Should approved online or distance learning courses count toward the residency requirement for doctoral students in online programs?
- Council members discussed the goals and requirements for doctoral residency, encouraging further consideration of the following:
 - What is the purpose or goal of a residency requirement for doctoral students? The Council generally agreed the goal is to include every KU student in the specific academic culture of this institution.
 - How can KU define its academic culture and participation within that culture?
 - How can online classes support or contribute to KU's strong academic culture? How can classes on satellite or affiliated campuses contribute?
 - What kinds of remote content delivery contribute to the goals of residency? Are there any that do not? (e.g., video-conferencing; recorded lectures)
 - How do experiences like GTA, GRA, or GA positions contribute to this goal? Are the experiences and contributions the same if the position entirely or primarily involves online or remote work (e.g., teaching or research from afar)?
- The Council emphasized that this is an important conversation to pursue in the coming months. The Council recommended updated the policy to begin with a statement of the goals and purposes of the residency requirement.

2. Professionalism in Graduate Study

- Dean Roberts opened a discussion of whether KU needs a policy concerning professional behavior in graduate study and invited ideas.
- The Council agreed unanimously that this is an important conversation to pursue in the coming months.

Next Meeting: 14 April 2017 — 2:00 pm in 210 Strong Hall

Adjourned: 15:07