

Executive Council of Graduate Faculty

Minutes for 17 November 2017

Present: Dean Michael C. Roberts (Chair), Thomas DeLuca, Debra Hedden, Margaret Kelley, Marie-Alice L'Heureux, Scott Reinardy, Milena Stanislavova, Herb Tuttle, Assistant Dean Amanda Ostreko (Staff), Amber Roberts Graham (Staff), Jessy Carolina Ayestas (Staff)

Absent: Norman Akers, Tamara Baker, Mahasweta Banerjee, Apurba Dutta, Ahreum Maeng, Paul Scott, Michael Werle (Ex Officio)

Called to Order: 14:05

Announcements

- Dean Roberts provided an update on the Launch KU crowdfunding project for the Graduate Student Emergency Fund.
 - The initiative had raised \$3,710 toward the \$10,000 goal by the morning of 17 November.
- Dean Roberts reminded the Council to please submit individual program review assessments online by the 10th of December.
- Dean Roberts notified the Council that the HR1 House Tax Bill included a provision to tax tuition benefits provided to graduate students. He reminded the Council that KU has a representative in Washington who actively pursues our interests and that we can provide information but cannot encourage advocacy.
- The Council requested an update concerning funding opportunities available through the Office of Graduate Studies.

Review of Minutes

- 27 October 2017
The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Policy Revisions

- Dean Roberts introduced several policy revision proposals for the Council's initial reading and discussion.
- Mediated Attendance
 - Graduate Student Oral Exam Attendance
 - * Dean Roberts explained that these revisions seek to clarify the current policy and to make it more current with respect to how committee members may attend oral exams and defenses using mediated means. The proposal grants greater flexibility to degree-granting units to make suitable specific arrangements within certain minimum parameters.
 - * The Council discussed case studies to examine when exceptions would or would not still be warranted under the proposed policy.

- * The Council recommended OIRP, Deans and Associate Deans, School-level Graduate Coordinators, and ISS as stakeholders to review the proposal.
- Suite of Policies Affecting Non-Degree Students
 - Dean Roberts provided an introductory comment on the rationale for these proposals. Several years ago, KU began admitting non-degree-seeking students to the university as a whole rather than to specific programs or schools. This change created more challenges than it solved, so Graduate Studies advises a return to program- and school-specific non-degree-seeking admissions.
 - Admission to Graduate Study
 - * This revision proposes a return to program- and school-specific non-degree-seeking admissions rather than a generic, university-wide admission category (OURG).
 - * As part of this change, we also advise restoring the requirement that non-degree-seeking applicants provide proof of a completed bachelor's degree for admission.
 - * Since the policy is open for revision, we also want to introduce an exclusion statement that says KU undergraduate students who are accepted to graduate school just prior to their graduation do not need to provide official transcripts to KU. Graduate Admissions can work to verify their completion of the bachelor's degree in Enroll & Pay.
 - Graduate Credit
 - * Some revisions clarify existing practices: non-degree hours earned within a program or school earn credit while OURG hours do not.
 - * Other revisions seek to clarify language about when hours may count toward both a degree and a certificate.
 - * Finally, a new passage explains how the cumulative graduate GPA is calculated. This has not previously been recorded in policy but the practice is established.
 - Permit to Re-Enroll
 - * These revisions clarify that non-degree students in a program or school will be eligible for the Permit to Re-Enroll though OURG students are not.
 - Dismissed Enrollment
 - * These revisions clarify that the return to program- and school-specific non-degree-seeking admissions re-authorizes those programs and schools to dismiss students who fail to maintain at least a 1.0 GPA. The university more broadly will take responsibility for dismissing OURG students under this GPA threshold while the OURG status is phased out.
 - * The remaining revisions clean up old language.
 - Good Academic Standing
 - * These revisions clarify that non-degree-seeking students are still expected to maintain good academic standing, though the GPA threshold is lower than for degree- and certificate-seeking students.
- English-Speaking Countries List
 - Dean Roberts notified the Council that revisions to this policy are being considered and asked for feedback or guidance on what should be included.

Adjourned: 15:04