

Executive Council of Graduate Faculty

Minutes for 27 April 2018

Present: Dean Michael C. Roberts (Chair), Apurba Dutta, Debra Hedden, Sherri Tucker, Marie-Alice L'Heureux, Ashley Muddiman, Milena Stanislavova, Peter Welsh, Michael Werle (Ex Officio), Assistant Dean Amanda Ostreko (Staff), Amber Roberts Graham (Staff), Jessy Carolina Ayestas Hernandez (Staff)

Absent: Norman Akers, Mahasweta Banerjee, Thomas DeLuca, Ahreum Maeng, Scott Reinardy, Herb Tuttle

Also present: Charlie Bankart

Called to Order: 14:03

Announcements

- 'Tis the season for EC elections! Those with terms expiring at the end of spring are:
 - Norman Akers – CLAS School of the Arts
 - Apurba Dutta – School of Pharmacy
 - Ahreum Maeng – School of Business
 - Paul Scott – CLAS Humanities
 - Milena Stanislavova – CLAS Natural Science and Mathematics
- The Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs approved the proposed revisions of the non-degree policy suite. Three of the five have been published and Amber is working to publish the remaining two.
- Proposed revisions of the Oral Exam Attendance Policy are awaiting approval.
- The Office of Graduate Studies learned in April of substantial funding cuts to several of its programs serving graduate students.
 - The Office of Research cut a total of \$106,000.
 - * These funds have primarily been distributed through the Graduate Scholarly Presentation Travel Fund and the Doctoral Student Research Fund.
 - The Office of the Chancellor cut funding to the Chancellor's Doctoral Fellowship.
 - * Eight awards will be funded annually, down from 12.
 - * The Office of the Chancellor will now fund only the first year of study through the Fellowship, eliminating the final year of funding.
 - * Existing commitments will be funded. Changes will take effect during the 2019-2020 award year.
 - * The Office of Graduate Studies will work with the Office of the Chancellor to determine the most strategic structure for the award and method for distributing the Chancellor's Doctoral Fellowship funds.
 - The Office of Graduate Studies will work to identify other resources that may be used to maintain some of these awards, though it is unlikely that either fund will be able to distribute as many awards this year as in the past.
 - The Council discussed these funding cuts and their implications. The Office of Graduate Studies welcomes input from constituents across the university.

Review of Minutes

- 23 February 2018
The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Discussion – Allocating fellowships to recipient departments

- This conversation is prompted by feedback from faculty and school leadership. The suggestion is to adopt a rotating schedule for allocating some awards to departments rather than a merit-based competition.
- The Council discussed the benefits and drawbacks of both models, including how other metrics might be used to evaluate departments' accomplishments and use of past funding.

Policy Proposals – New

- Revision: English Proficiency Requirements for Admission to Graduate Study
 - First Reading
 - The revision proposes aligning our English proficiency requirements for graduate admission with the best practices demonstrated by most public AAU institutions. To do so, we propose that only non-native speakers of English must provide proof of English proficiency as specified in the existing policy.
 - The proposed policy language adopts the phrasing used on KU's application for graduate admission: "Is English your first language?" The vast majority of our AAU comparison group, other schools surveyed, and KBOR use different phrasing: additional testing or other requirements apply to "non-native speakers of English".
 - Dean Roberts commented that conversation on this topic has continued across campus since the Council's last review of this policy earlier this spring.
 - Further research by Graduate Studies, International Programs, and other stakeholders has indicated that this change aligns KU with the best practices used at aspirational peer institutions while maintaining the rigor of KU's admission standards for non-native speakers. The data suggest this change would reduce roadblocks and streamline admission processes for English-speaking students around the world, making recruitment easier.
 - The Council discussed the best ways of identifying which applicants are non-native speakers of English.
- Revision: Graduate Faculty Appointments
 - First Reading
 - In the interest of simplifying graduate faculty nominations and appointments, Graduate Studies proposes eliminating the current approach, using status levels. Instead, a faculty member's privileges will be specified individually and tracked that way in university systems.
 - This is, in part, a response to recent changes in the Higher Learning Commission's regulations for faculty credentialing.
 - If this policy is eventually approved, it will require the "retirement" of the four existing policies that outline each status level's privileges.
 - The Council discussed how faculty would be nominated and evaluated for the various privileges listed.

- The Council recommended language to clarify which policy provisions are eligibility requirements and which are privileges.

Policy Proposals – Returning

- Revision: Academic Probation
 - Second Reading
 - During the discussion of recent changes made to procedures for Non-Degree-Seeking students, stakeholder feedback identified need to update this policy. It must reflect the recent changes made to the Good Academic Standing policy.
 - The proposed revisions clarify KU’s existing application of academic probation and that, except in the case of GPA, departments and programs must notify the graduate division when a student needs to be placed on probation.
 - The proposed revisions also update the policy to reference the Good Academic Standing policy, which did not exist when this policy was last written and revised.
 - Currently, the policy only specifically identifies a GPA below 3.0 as grounds for academic probation but this is not consistent with institutional practice. Current practice applies academic probation to any student who fails to make satisfactory academic progress toward a degree or to maintain good academic standing.
 - The proposal completed stakeholder review this morning and is eligible for vote and approval.
- Revision: Doctoral Candidacy
 - Second Reading
 - The revision proposes adding a clarification that admission to graduate study does not imply candidacy for an advanced degree.
 - Since the policy is open for revision, Graduate Studies proposes updating the discussion of committee composition requirements with a reference to the Doctoral Oral Exam Committee Composition policy.
 - This proposed revision is necessary for the retirement of the Admissions Procedures policy.
 - The proposal completed stakeholder review this morning and is eligible for vote and approval.
- Revision: Admission to Graduate Study
 - Second Reading
 - The proposed revision adds an explicit statement that KU sends applicants the official notifications of their admission decisions.
 - This proposed revision is necessary for the retirement of the Admissions Procedures policy.
 - This statement is particularly important now, in light of KU’s partnerships with recruiters and other entities invested in bringing new students to study at KU.
 - The proposal completed stakeholder review this morning and is eligible for vote and approval.
- Policy “Retirement”: Admission Procedures
 - Second Consideration

- Graduate Studies had anticipated revising the “Admission to Graduate Study, Procedures” policy alongside recent revisions to the “Admission to Graduate Study” policy. However, it is unclear that this Procedures policy should be housed in the policy library. Housing procedures in the Policy Library is a holdover practice from when the entire academic catalogue was imported into the Policy Library as a foundation. Since then, Graduate Studies has tended to maintain procedural documentation outside of the Policy Library, so it is easier to ensure currency and timely updates.
- Graduate Studies proposes retiring the Procedures policy, moving procedural information to a new, comprehensive web page and moving policy information into existing policies where it makes logical sense. The existing policy was heavily revised in recent months but not reviewed for publication in the Policy Library. The revised language, included in the agenda, will be posted on the website.
- Highlighted margin notes indicate the statements that will migrate into other policies in the Policy Library as part of the retirement process.
- The Compliance Office has reviewed this proposal and finds it sound.
- The other policy revisions required in order to retire this one may be approved today (above).
- Policy statements in the Procedures policy are minimal. There are three that Graduate Studies must consider moving.
 - * An explicit statement that KU sends applicants the official notifications of their admission decisions. This will move into the Admission to Graduate Study policy
 - * An explicit statement that admission to a graduate program does not imply candidacy for an advanced degree. This will move into the Doctoral Candidacy Policy.

Votes

- Policy Revisions
 - Academic Probation: Passed Unanimously
 - Doctoral Candidacy: Passed Unanimously
 - Admission to Graduate Study: Passed Unanimously
- Policy “Retirement”
 - Admission to Graduate Study, Procedures: Passed Unanimously