

Executive Council of Graduate Faculty

Minutes for 6 March 2020

Present: Jennifer Roberts (Chair), Jody Brook, Hui Cai, Matt Gillispie, Yan Li, Joshua Miner, Robert Parsons, Tarun Sabarwal, Michael Wolfe, Amanda Ostreko (Staff), Kristine Latta (Staff), Amber Roberts Graham (Staff), Jessy Carolina Ayestas Hernandez (Staff), Anna Paradis (Staff)

Absent: Jim Guthrie, Heidi Hallman, Chris Johnson, Matt Tidwell, Andrew Short, Mike Werle (Ex Officio)

Also present: Valerie Pierce, Audrey Lamb, Colin Roust

Called to Order: 15:00

Announcements

1. The Graduate Student Satisfaction Survey opened last week. We are obligated by various reporting agencies to conduct this survey at least once every three years so we are conducting it this year. We expect to make major changes to the survey in future years, so this year's survey is a pared-down version of the old one. By the next time we run the GSSS, it should look really different. In the meantime, please encourage your students to complete this one.
2. Graduate Studies highlighted the Graduate Student Emergency Fund as its primary focus during the One Day. On KU. fundraising campaign. We were successful in raising a little over \$3,000, all of which will be made available directly to students when we reopen the application portal.
3. As part of its restructuring, the Office of Graduate Studies has made substantial revisions to most of the processes we use to collect, evaluate, and distribute our awards each spring. These changes help align processes with the scope of the office's new mission and to streamline them for efficiency, due to the reduced staffing level in the office. Vice Provost Roberts offered some updates on a few of these awards processes.
 - Argersinger award nominations opened during the week of 2 March 2020. The timelines and processes have changed; Vice Provost Roberts invited discussion.
 - (a) Receipt of the award is contingent upon successful defense and degree completion. If a selected winner has not fulfilled all degree requirements before selection, Graduate Studies will confirm their eligibility before finalizing the award payment.
 - (b) Students who defended after last year's deadline but before this year's eligibility window officially begins will be granted an exception to be eligible for this year's award. This problem will not recur in future years using the new timelines.
4. This week a couple of urgent petitions need to be reviewed by Council but did not make it into the printed agenda. Vice Provost Roberts made a decision this time to introduce them in the meeting for discussion and decision but welcomed feedback about whether this is an acceptable practice going forward. Council agreed that urgent matters could be introduced in the meetings if necessary.

Review of Minutes

- 24 January 2020
The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
- 14 February 2020
The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Policy Revision Proposals

- Advancing Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Training (ADPT) *Representative: Audrey Lamb*
 - Professor Lamb introduced a proposal for a complete revision and reorientation of the policies governing management of the Tuition Assistance Pool (“TAP”) funds.
 - The new ADPT will replace the TAP policy and seeks to leverage these funds for greater effect by incentivizing and supplementing external grant, fellowship, and traineeship funding that directly contributes to strengthening doctoral and post-doctoral education at KU.
 - Receipt of externally funded fellowships makes students ineligible for some important benefits of employment as a GTA, GRA, or GA, including subsidized health insurance, which in turn makes KU less competitive overall. This proposal seeks to improve KU’s prestige and competitiveness by offering supplement packages that make winning an external grant or other award at least equal in benefit to the graduate students. It also provides separate incentives for graduate students, post-doctoral scholars, and faculty to seek external grant funding.
 - The Council discussed several points.
 - * The policy may need to indicate that the expected support level for the external grant is equivalent to the minimum GTA salary as specified in that year’s Memorandum of Agreement, unless the minimum salary paid by a department is higher, in which case the award should support the student at the level customary in that department.
 - * Kansas state regulations about gambling will influence how the incentive for faculty is set up, once it’s time to do that.
 - * If an award does not provide full support for a student at the minimum level required, the ADPT benefits will be in alignment with the proportion of the minimum amount that is provided. For example, if a student is supported 40% by their own grant, they can receive 40% of the benefits as described in the ADPT policy.
 - * The policy should outline whether students are eligible multiple times, for concurrent awards, or for awards won in addition to a full-support GTA, GRA, or GA position.
 - * Maximum enrollment paid by ADPT should be 9 hours.
 - * Graduate Studies should track proportional allocation of these funds to various schools and work to balance out any unwarranted discrepancies by supporting grant applications in target areas.
 - * Some Council members wanted Graduate Studies to investigate ways of providing training, support, and professional development in the skill of grant writing. Others felt this was more appropriately handled at the school or department level.
 - **Outcome:** Council supported the ADPT proposal, tasking Graduate Studies staff to incorporate feedback from this discussion into a formal policy proposal draft. The draft

will be reviewed at a future Council meeting and then circulated for campus-wide feedback.

- English Proficiency Requirements for Admission to Graduate Study *Representative: Amber Roberts Graham*
Guest: Valerie Pierce, Applied English Center
 - In order to be more inclusive and welcoming to international students from all backgrounds and to smooth the path for them to attend KU, Graduate Studies is proposing several major changes to this policy. These changes seek to address the concerns voiced by faculty and the campus community over the past several years. The specific proposed changes are outlined below.
 - These proposed changes have been circulated campus-wide for review and comment. Comment was sought from deans and associate deans, the University Senate’s International Affairs Committee, the Office of International Affairs, International Student Services, the Applied English Center, General Counsel, the Policy Office, Graduate Admissions, Graduate Military Programs, the Military-Affiliated Student Center, department chairs, departmental directors of graduate study (DGSes), and graduate staff coordinators.
 - Some of the specific suggestions have already been incorporated in the attached draft.
 - * Updates to clarify the technical terminology and expectations for military applicants, including allowance of rank equivalency in all branches
 - * Elimination of the requirement to be selected for Command and General Staff College: “As we move more and more into the online space, we will draw officers who are interested in our programs but not necessarily attending CGSC. The rationale remains the same – if you have been selected (or promoted) to the rank of major, you have demonstrated the English proficiency requirements for graduate study.”
 - * Phraseology changes concerning admission application processing and timelines
 - * Standardize capitalization to clarify references to the names of the proficiency bands
 - * Relative order about where the military-rank bullet should appear
 - * Phraseology changes concerning AEC progression procedures and timelines
 - The also discussed feedback that was less straightforward.
 - * The Council decided to maintain the current policy language’s flexibility with respect to when alternative documentation may be used. The Council prefers to review each individual case for the appropriateness of the alternative documentation.
 - The original proposal included:
 - * NEW: Defined Proficiency Bands to facilitate clearer discussion between all administrative and academic units on campus
 - * NEW: Defined two new mechanisms for demonstrating Full Proficiency
 - * IMPROVED: Replaced the “country list” with an “institution list” process
 - * IMPROVED: New table formatting for scores and qualifications
 - * REVISED: Technical edit to clarify that provisional admission due to English proficiency is not available for applicants to online-only programs

Petitions for Exception to Graduate Studies Policy

- Music

- Alternative Documentation of English Proficiency
 - * **Decision:** Approved
- Compression of minimum time between oral comprehensive exam and final doctoral defense
 - * **Decision:** Approved
- Art History
 - Admission with domestic undergraduate transcript that does not use GPA
 - * **Decision:** Approved
- Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
 - Waiver of requirement to repay GTA tuition support following resignation
 - * **Decision:** Referred back to department for additional documentation
- Theatre and Dance
 - Permission to count two recently departed KU tenured faculty toward the internal majority requirement
 - * **Decision:** Approved
- Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
 - Request to appoint co-enrolled undergraduate student as GTA
 - * Petition reviewed online
 - * **Decision:** Deny permission to appoint as a GTA due to potential for perceived conflict of interest but grant permission to appoint as a GRA.

Graduate Faculty Nominations

- Draft GradFac Triage Criteria
 - The Council reviewed and discussed the draft criteria and provided feedback for the next round of revisions.
- Approved with Technical Modification:
 - Joshua Bolick (EEB)
 - Yehuda (Yud) Izhakian (ECON)
 - Shailendra Pratap Jain (BUS)
- Approved with Substantive Modification:
 - Ray Mizumura-Pence (LDST, AAAS)
 - Sarah Kirk (PSYC)
- Approved as Proposed:
 - Casey Franklin (ARCH)
 - Linda D’Silva (KUMC, SPLH)

- Tashia Dare (MUSE)
- Jonathan Beever (ENGL)
- Sam Zipper (GEOL)
- Erin B. Rasmussen (ABSC)
- Katherine Karlin (ENGL)
- Kimberley L. M. Zonneveld (ABSC)
- Elaina J. Sutley (CEAE)
- Andrés LePage (CEAE)
- Nicole Hodges Persley (THDN)
- Joshua Lollar (ENGL)
- Lin Liu (ME)
- James N. Green (HIST)
- David L. Cooper (SLAV)
- David Colwell (MUSC)
- Trevor J. Rivers (EEB)
- Mary C. Hill (GEOL)
- Noah McLean (GEOL)
- Brittnee A. Carter (POLIS)

BGL/CDF Debrief

- The Council briefly discussed observations about the process.
- Council members received feedback that the lengthier process, including interviews, hampered recruitment in cases where students who were nominated but not selected felt the next-best offer from the department was too much lower.
- Some members expressed frustration with Admit.
- Some members felt the interview process was too unfocused or in other ways unhelpful in modifying the preliminary conclusions reached by reading the written materials. Others appreciated the chance to explore points from the written materials.
- Assistant Vice Provost Ostreko asked Council members to consider any modifications to the process and bring them for discussion at the May 2020 meeting. Our goal is to finalize next year's process ahead of time.

Adjourned: 17:05

Next Meeting: 27 March 2020 — 3:00 pm in 210 Strong Hall