

Executive Council of Graduate Faculty

Minutes for 27 March 2020

Present: Jennifer Roberts (Chair), Jody Brook, Hui Cai, Jim Guthrie, Heidi Hallman, Chris Johnson, Joshua Miner, Robert Parsons, Matt Tidwell, Tarun Sabarwal, Andrew Short, Mike Werle (Ex Officio), Michael Wolfe, Amanda Ostreko (Staff), Kristine Latta (Staff), Amber Roberts Graham (Staff), Jessy Aystas (Staff), Anna Paradis (Staff)

Absent: Matt Gillispie, Yan Li,

Also present: Valerie Pierce

Called to Order: 3:02 pm

Announcements

1. Vice Provost Roberts provided several updates concerning recent changes prompted by the coronavirus pandemic.
 - (a) Graduate Studies' main goal during the COVID-19 transition is to smooth the path for graduate education whenever possible.
 - (b) Student Senate graciously supported our proposal to repurpose unspent funds in the Graduate Scholarly Presentation Travel Fund for distribution through the Graduate Student Emergency Fund.
 - (c) We have temporarily suspended our policies requiring in-person attendance at milestone exams. All participants should attend these exams remotely, using videoconferencing, but must be fully able to participate with the student and each other. If a student prefers an in-person exam, the student's preference shall be honored but this may require rescheduling and delays in the progress toward a degree.
 - (d) We have been receiving questions about best practices for a variety of campus processes or to clarify policy considerations. We are building resources to support departments and schools in addressing these concerns and will be in contact regularly to support our constituencies.
 - (e) Vice Provost Roberts participated in the Office of Research town-hall discussions today. It was an important opportunity to clarify the definition of essential research and the procedures required for designation as essential. **GRAs should not, under any circumstances, be physically present working in labs.**
 - (f) The University has not yet decided how to proceed concerning Commencement activities. We will make decisions about Hooding once we have this guidance.
2. Vice Provost Roberts provided several updates about Graduate Studies awards.
 - (a) The recommended departmental deadline for the Argersinger Dissertation Award was on Monday, though some schools have provided an extension. Schools will review nominees in order to submit a ranked list to Graduate Studies in mid-April. The Council will conduct the final selection at the May meeting.

- (b) We are currently accepting nominations for the Summer Research Scholarships. That nomination will close on 15 April, after which, Graduate Studies staff will complete the selection and processing.
- (c) We are currently accepting nominations for the Byrd Graduate Educator award and the Outstanding Graduate Staff award, as well.

3. Petition Updates

- (a) The EEB petition Council reviewed at the early-March meeting has been withdrawn.
- (b) Two petitions have been added to the docket today that do not appear in the printed agenda. Vice Provost Roberts decided in these cases that the timing warranted bringing them now but would like the Council's feedback about how to approach similar situations in the future.

Review of Minutes

- 6 March 2020
The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Petitions for Exception to GS Policy

- ELPS
 - [Admission to Graduate Study](#) p. 11
 - * Waiver of the requirement to provide a final, official transcript showing conferral of a completed bachelor's degree
 - * **Decision:** Approved
 - [Alternative Documentation of English Proficiency](#) p. 12
 - * The AEC has reviewed this documentation and recommended approval.
 - * **Decision:** Approve admission as requested and also administratively approve instructional staff to receive a graduate degree
- 700+ GTA Appointments
 - SPLH 862
 - * **Decision:** Approve
 - SPLH 824
 - * **Decision:** Approve
 - The Council wishes to consider policy and process for such appointments in the future.

Graduate Faculty Nominations

- GradFac Triage Criteria p. 20
 - **Decision:** Approved for implementation
- Approved with Technical Modification:
 - Melinda Marie Leko (SPED)

- Andrea L. Ruppard (SPED)
- Shu-Man Pan (WGSS)

- Approved as Proposed:

- Ryan J. McDonough (CHCP)
- Linda E. Miller (EMGT)
- Sterrett (JOUR)
- Wenhao Wang (EPSY)
- Whitney G. Moore (HSES)
- Shyam Sathyamoorthi (MDCM)
- Richard M. Kubina Jr. (ABSC)
- Stephanie Barczewski (HIST)

- Administrative Approval:

- Louise G. Lord Nelson (SPED)
- Richard Godbeer (HIST)
- David Farber (HIST)
- Robert Bayliss (SPAN)
- Michael D. Blum (GEOL)

Adjourned: 4:04 pm

Next Meeting: 17 April 2020 — 3:00 pm in 210 Strong Hall