

Executive Council of Graduate Faculty

Minutes for 17 April 2020

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

Absent: Matt Gillispie, Tarun Sabarwal

Also present: Colin Roust

Announcements

- Vice Provost Roberts notified the Council that the development and approval of Bylaws has been delayed due to the COVID-19 disruptions. She requested that members come to the 8 May meeting prepared to discuss meeting days and times for next year.
- Vice Provost Roberts provided updates related to COVID-19.
 - Commencement and all affiliated ceremonies have been postponed. Several dates are being evaluated.
 - Graduate Studies surveyed students who registered for Hooding to determine preferences about whether to hold a delayed in-person ceremony or a timely virtual ceremony. There was a strong preference for an in-person ceremony when safety permits as well as some sort of virtual recognition in May.
 - The New Graduate Student and New GTA Orientations will be held online in August.
 - 3Gs exempted from the hiring freeze but we may face significant budget constraints in the coming months.
 - Graduate Studies and Graduate Admissions are part of campus-wide efforts to pursue flexibility regarding enrollment holds.
 - * Graduate Admissions holds for final, official proof of a bachelor's degree will be temporarily deferred.
 - * Graduate Studies will extend the timeline for eligibility to file the Permit to Re-Enroll for two years instead of one.
 - Watson Library has made available a private room, by reservation, for milestone exams. It contains a whiteboard and has a door that can be closed for privacy. The room will be cleaned and disinfected between uses. Watson Library also has laptops available for check-out, if needed.
 - Vice Provost Roberts outlined the Graduate Studies communication strategy during COVID-19.
 - * Primary focus will be regular engagement via meetings and emails with the Executive Council of Graduate Faculty, Directors of Graduate Studies, and Associate Deans for graduate affairs.

- * Graduate Studies will issue a biweekly email with policy updates directly to graduate students. These will be pre-circulated to Associate Deans and Directors of Graduate Studies.
- * Graduate Studies completed revised our homepage and made it into a brand new resource hub for graduate education and COVID-19. Visit graduate.ku.edu
- * Graduate Studies is using social media to engage students several times a week.
- Faculty and administrators are encouraged to think creatively about ways to mitigate or adjust to accommodate progress delays due to research shut-downs.
- Graduate Studies is encouraging units to collect signatures on thesis and dissertation defense pages in any way that makes sense and meets the department’s standards.
- The English Proficiency policy revisions reviewed in February have been submitted to the Provost for final approval.
- Vice Provost Roberts will participate on a panel, along with Provost Bichelmeyer and Vice Provost Durham, for an online conversation with graduate students. The virtual conversation will take place at noon on Monday 20 April.
- Vice Provost Roberts consulted the Council about whether to record meetings to enable the Zoom transcript functions. The Council agreed to try this.

Review of Minutes

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

Petitions for Exception to GS Policy

- MUSC
 - [Admission to Graduate Study](#)
 - * **Decision:** Approved
- CLAS
 - [Graduate Research Assistant Appointment Eligibility](#)
 - * **Decision:** Tabled for further investigation
 - * Council recommended this approach be adopted campus-wide or not at all.
- 700+ GTA Appointments
 - PSYC
 - * **Decision:** Approved
 - SPED
 - * **Decision:** Approved
 - C&T
 - * **Decision:** Approved
 - Council granted to Graduate Studies staff the authority for administrative approval of 700+ appointments if they meet three criteria:

- * No grading of other graduate students
- * No peer relationship between GTA and enrolled graduate students, either socially or academically
- * Course format lends itself to appropriate engagement between a GTA and enrolled graduate students

Graduate Studies Policy and COVID-19

- Vice Provost Roberts reviewed some ways in which COVID-19 has required immediate and temporary policy flexibility.
 - Suspension of in-person attendance requirements for milestone oral examinations through summer 2020
 - Extension of maximum allowable time to degree: students who were enrolled in spring 2020 may opt into an additional year, if needed, during the final semester of their program
 - Grading Scales: no change for graduate students except an extension of the deadline to decide about CR/NC
- Looking forward, COVID-19 will also prompt consideration of longer-term policy exceptions or revisions.
 - The Council should consider how to approach probation and dismissal following the disruptions of this semester.
 - The Council should consider adjustments to the Graduate Credit and Graduate Admission policies, to facilitate evaluation of transcripts with non-letter grades this semester.
 - The Council may need to consider extensions of employment eligibility limits and other longer-range concerns at a future date.
- Policy Change Proposals
 - [Graduate Credit](#)
First Read
 - * *Representatives: Amanda Ostreko and Amber Roberts Graham*
 - * One proposed change provides flexibility for KU programs to enter agreements with other institutions in order to facilitate transfer of master's-seeking students who complete early coursework elsewhere to finish a degree at KU. Under these agreements, policy would allow the transfer of more than 9 hours toward a KU graduate degree, as long as the minimum number of hours earned at KU is met.
 - * The other proposed change accommodates students who will be affected by the coronavirus disruptions and may earn something other than letter grades during their undergraduate careers.
 - * The Council provided suggestions to clarify expectations for what constitutes disaster and what kind of documentation would be appropriate.
 - * The Council voted to circulate the proposal, with the Council's suggestions, for campus-wide stakeholder review and feedback.

Awards Administration

- *Representative: Anna Paradis*
- Anna Paradis provided an overview of the review process and answered questions from Council members.
- Initial reviews will be due back to Graduate Studies during the week of 4 May 2020.
- Final decisions will be made during the 8 May meeting.

Graduate Faculty Nominations

- Approved with Technical Modification
 - Julie M. Birkenmaier
- Approved as Proposed
 - Adam G. Rouse
 - Jonathan C. Hagel
 - Jingxin Wang
 - Susana R. Patton
 - Ayako Mizumura
 - José Ignacio Carvajal Regidor
- Not Approved
 - Annette Tetmeyer

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