

Executive Council of Graduate Faculty

February 28th, 2014, 2:00 – 4:00pm
CLAS Conference Room, 210 Strong Hall

Presiding: Michael Roberts

Members present: Aaron Clopton, James Daugherty, David Ekerdt, Victor Frost, Steve Kapp, Van Kelly, Brian Laird, Tien-Tsung Lee, Mahbub Rashid, John Stobaugh, and Mike Werle

Staff: Austin Fitts and Roberta Pokphanh

AGENDA

1. Announcements: Calendar changes, elections, committees, proposal updates, graduate calendar
 2. Review of minutes: January 24th, 2014
 3. Program review discussion
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1. Announcements made by the Dean of Graduate Studies:

Dean Roberts opened the meeting at 2:03pm and announced that the meeting in April 4th meeting this spring is canceled. Dean Roberts requested that the Council members from academic units up for election in 2014-2014 submit nominations: Music, Journalism, Engineering, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences – Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Dean Roberts continued by inviting members of the Council to participate in an ad hoc committee associated with the Conflict of Interest Committee (COIC), a governance group supported by KU Research. This ad hoc group will develop policy regarding the employment of students hired in faculty-owned businesses. A major concern should be the protection of students. The Council discussed topics related to COIC and potential candidates.

Dean Roberts provided the Council with feedback on the current program proposals with the Provost's Office. Assistant Dean Pokphanh suggested a discussion of the Kansas Board of Regent's minimum criteria for new programs at the next Council meeting.

Dean Roberts discussed the Graduate calendar and the deadlines established by Graduate Studies related to spring graduation. The Council discussed their experience with the Doctoral Hooding ceremony program and graduating students. Several members brought their point of view that the ceremony should be more open to participation.

Daugherty asked about the 5 month rule between comprehensive exams and dissertation defense. Dean Roberts indicated that Graduate Studies would research this issue and bring information to the Council later this spring. Assistant Dean Pokphanh discussed items related to the recent graduate fellowships and Dean Roberts thanked the Council for their help in the selection process.

2. Review of minutes: January 24th, 2014 meeting

Dean Roberts opened the floor for questions about the minutes from the January 24th, 2014. The motion to approve the minutes carried unanimously.

Updated minutes are available on the Executive Council website:
<http://www.graduate.ku.edu/executive-council-graduate-faculty>

3. Program review discussion:

Dean Roberts provided the Council with information on the upcoming steps for the next round of program review and asked the Council to consider any changes to this process based on the experience of the Council in reviewing graduate programs during the last round. Dean Roberts continued by adding that Graduate Studies intends to streamline the process wherever possible, while maintaining the meaningfulness of the process, and that talks have begun on the next cycle.

Professor Frost and others suggested that the materials submitted by academic departments should be reduced and that undergraduate reviews be separated from the graduate program content. Professor Kelly suggested a template module that could be followed closely and that an overall description of the department should be divided more clearly between undergraduate and graduate.

The Council discussed the need for more emphasis on Graduate student placement in the program review and also that there needs to be a better way to better track this indicator of a program's success.

Dean Roberts indicated a few places that OIRP will be able to provide data on programs and agreed with the recommendation that strict limits could be posed regarding the content submitted by the academic units.

Professor Kapp proposed that a minimum be established for the amount of information that academic units are allowed to submit. Professor Lee added that an online standardized, "fill in the blank", text block format could help establish the threshold of information needed for program review.

Professor Stobaugh raised the idea of adding the hallmarks of particular disciplines to the program review format in order to more accurately assess individual units in their field.

Professor Frost suggested that the information gathered during program review be published on the department's website, or be re-purposed somehow in a useful way. The Council discussed the Doctoral Program Profiles currently published on department websites and indicated that program review should produce results suitable for publication. Several members agreed that program review should be re-purposed in a way that is more useful for departments. Master's program profiles should also be considered.

Assistant Dean Pokphanh brought to the Council's attention the data resources scheduled to be available for the next program review. Dean Roberts concluded the conversation with his intentions to make program review more meaningful to the academic units and to utilize the information produced by their efforts.

Dean Roberts thanked the Council for a helpful discussion wished them a productive semester. The meeting was adjourned at 3:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Austin Fitts