

# Executive Council of Graduate Faculty

May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 2:00 – 4:00pm  
CLAS Conference Room, 210 Strong Hall

Presiding: Michael C. Roberts

Members present: Ben Chappell, Aaron Clopton, Promothesh Chatterjee, James Daugherty, Dave Ekerdt, Victor Frost, Van Kelly, Brian Laird, Tien-Tsung Lee, Mahbub Rashid, John Staniunas, John Stobaugh, and Mike Werle

Staff: Austin Fitts and Roberta Pokphanh

## AGENDA

1. Announcements: Election results for 2014-2017
  2. Review of minutes: April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014
  3. New programs:
    - a) Global MBA: Joint degree in Business and the Center for Global and International Studies
    - b) Fast track master's in Classics
  4. Policy review:
    - a) Master's exam committee composition
    - b) Doctoral exam committee composition
    - c) Outside committee member on doctoral exams
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1. Announcements made by the Dean of Graduate Studies:

Dean Roberts opened the meeting at 2:01pm and announced the elected members of the Executive Council for 2014-2017. Dean Roberts also noted the new members who indicated they would be on sabbatical in the coming year.
2. Review of minutes: April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting  
Dean Roberts opened the floor for questions about the minutes from the April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014, and there were no objections. 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. New programs review:
  - a) Dean Roberts introduced Dee Steinle and she provided clarification on how the joint MBA/MA will work. Dee Steinle discussed that students in the new joint program would be admitted to both the MBA and MA programs separately, and that these two programs would remain separate. Dee Steinle emphasized that the MBA program hours would be reduced from 42 to 32.  
  
Dean Roberts asked Dee Steinle about the wording in the proposal and Dee indicated the need to modify the proposal document to be more informative and fully descriptive. The Council discussed the definition of a joint program and the intentions of the new program. The Council decided to table a vote until the programs have a chance to revise the proposal document.
  - b) Dean Roberts and the Council discussed the nature of a fast track master's degree in Classics. There were no objections and the Council unanimously approved the new program track.

4. Policy review:

- a) Dean Roberts discussed the amount of feedback Graduate Studies received about the committee composition policies. He recognized the reasons that some units object to the new policies.

The Council discussed the perspective from their respective home departments, considering their views of courtesy faculty appointments in particular. Whether faculty with courtesy appointments are considered part of the home department was addressed in detail, and especially whether courtesy faculty should count in the committee majority from the student's home department.

Professor Frost asked that wording be added to the policy in order to clarify that programs under the exclusions/special circumstances section can have faculty with Special Graduate faculty status chair master's committees.

Dean Roberts asked the Council for further discussion of the proposed draft of the master's committee composition policy. There were no objections and the Council unanimously approved the new policy.

- b) Dean Roberts asked the Council for further discussion of the proposed draft of the doctoral committee composition policy. There were no objections and the Council unanimously approved the new policy.
- c) Dean Roberts discussed the reasons for having an Outside member policy and shared some of the history on the need for an objective assessment of a department's examination process. The Council discussed whether some level of expertise must be taken into consideration when choosing an Outside member.

The Council discussed ways to clarify the Outside member's role on a doctoral committee. The Council determined that departments use courtesy faculty appointments in different ways and that one-off exceptions to the current policy draft can be reviewed as needed.

Dean Roberts asked the Council for further discussion of the proposed draft of the Outside committee member policy. There were no objections and the Council unanimously approved the new policy.

Dean Roberts thanked the Council for their time and adjourned the meeting at 3:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Austin Fitts