

Minutes
Graduate College Council
March 14, 2022
On Zoom

Unapproved until voted upon at April 11, 2022 meeting

Called to order at 3:30PM

Attendees: Emily Davis, Lou Rossi, Paul Laux, Subhasis Biswas, Constantin Bacuta, Joshua Zide, Abigail Donovan, Ryan Zurakowski, Lu Ann DeCunzo, Lars Gundlach, Charlie Riodan, Bernadette Racicot, Amy Griffin, Mary Martin, Jill Higginson, Harsh Bais, David Wuisman, Louise Blank, Ikem Okoye, Aviva Heyn, Michael Michaud, Bramie Lenhoff, Tom Buckley, Jeff Bulen, Nigel Caplan, Julia Maresca, Cynthia Rechsteiner, Libby Bowen, Steve Kendus, Joanne Miller, Saleem Ali, Siyan Wang, Danilo Yanich, Nigel Kaplan

Minutes of prior meeting and agenda approved without objection

Dean's Report (Lou Rossi, see his slides)

- Ukrainian students and academics at UD. The President has established a working group to determine specific ways to support and welcome those who are new to UD or distressed at UD due to the war. The Dean plans to advocate for this to be a long-term commitment.
- Graduate student minimum stipend. This is under discussion. The discussion is not in isolation, the budget model is a constraint. Stipends are considered in the context of excellence in graduate education.
 - Question: Fees lead to a situation where stipend dollars are taxed and then paid back to UD. International students have more fees and so are more disadvantages. Answer: Dean agrees this is the current case.
- Admissions. Trend over the past month has been for an international student increase but a sharp domestic student decrease versus last year. Last year was an especially strong year, but still this is concerning and under watch.
- Additional work policy. A new policy is near finalization. The process has included discussion with all relevant bodies since last summer. The existing policy is that, for fully-funded students, additional work is only allowed by exception. This is on the strict side relative to peer schools, and faculty report that violations of the policy are not very uncommon in practice. The Graduate College administrative team came to believe we should afford more flexibility, i.e., to allow students to have some outside work hours in cases where they wish to. The new draft policy (circulated with agenda) allows for 29.5 hours total work per week without seeking permission (except where visa rules mandate less). More work in total than that would require permission.
 - In discussion, suggestions to clarify some aspects arose, including that this applies to students on full award and that 20 hours is the expected full commitment to UD.

- There was concern expressed that TA duties often limit a student's time to progress to degree, while RA duties (within limits) may contribute. This needs to be managed, and "advisor overreach" can sometimes be an issue.
 - Chair asked if the Council was comfortable with the language as it might relate to this issue. The Dean suggested that the Student Life Committee might consider the issue and recommend if anything should be done.
 - It was mentioned that the oft-discussed idea to have an ombudsperson would help with such issues in practice. The idea that an officer in the Student Life office with graduate student focus could help was raised.

Chair's report (Emily Davis, see her slides)

- Chair raises three issues
 - A proposed working group on the graduate student stipend
 - Searching for ways to incorporate graduate student voices in College/Council processes
 - Preparing for next year
- First issue. Executive Committee has recommended such a working group. Chair raises questions about the goal, if there is any authority of Council, and work this be duplicative. She asks for discussion.
 - Dean suggests that such a group should be charged carefully, as the group could not effect an increase in stipend on its own
- Second issue: Graduate student reps on Council and Executive Committee have expressed that they are not sure of their role on Committees. Chair asks that we discuss next month.
- Third issue: All Colleges are asked to have representatives for next year in place before May so that we can move ahead smoothly without losing time.

New business

- None

Meeting adjourned 4:43PM

Graduate College Council Meeting

3/14/22

3:30-4:30pm

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Secretary's report – (5 min)
 - a. Approval of agenda (please review prior to meeting)
 - b. Approval of minutes from February meeting (please review prior to meeting)
3. Dean's report (Rossi) – (20 min)
 - a. Proposed graduate contract additional work policy (please review prior to meeting)
 - b. General updates
4. Chair's report (Davis) – (20 min)
 - a. Proposed working group on the graduate minimum stipend
 - b. Ways to incorporate graduate student representative voices
 - c. Preparing for next year
5. Graduate Student Representative's report (Douglas) – (5 min)
6. New business
 - a. April 11, 3:30 meeting
 - b. Any Graduate Council members may bring an item before council for discussion
7. Adjourn

Dean's Report & Questions

(20 min)

Lou Rossi

Chair's Report & Discussion

(20 minutes)

1. Proposed working group on the graduate minimum stipend
2. Ways to incorporate graduate student representative voices
3. Preparing for next year

GCC Response to Grad Minimum Stipend Discussion

GCC Executive Committee proposed a working group to gather information on the factors impacting the graduate minimum stipend. There was a recent task force on this issue, whose report/data would be relevant to such a group.

Questions about such a working group:

1. What is the GCC's goal regarding the graduate minimum stipend?
2. What authority do we have?
3. What work would we be duplicating?

Ways to Incorporate GCC Graduate Student Reps

The GSG designates a graduate student rep from each college, one of which is selected by the graduate students to serve on the GCC executive committee. The assumption is that the rep on exec would represent grad concerns from the other reps. However, reps have raised the question about their role on the council as a whole. There doesn't seem to be a clear line from GSG thru the grad reps to the GCC.

My proposal:

If we were to reinstitute the college updates on graduate programs, it would make sense for faculty and the grad student rep in each college to collaborate on that brief update.

How else should graduate student reps be involved?

Preparing for Next Year

One challenge for the GCC is getting started with a full set of faculty and graduate representatives by fall.

Realistically, that means having next year's representatives set by May before everyone disburses. Please initiate these processes within your colleges this month if possible, and no later than April.

Think now about if you are interested in serving on one of our three standing committees: Exec, Interdisciplinary Curriculum Committee, or Graduate Student Life Committee. I'd strongly urge the chair of the latter two committees to be your college's rep on Exec to facilitate communication.

**Standing Report:
Chelsia Douglas**
grad rep to exec

(5 minutes)

Update on graduate student
issues and concerns

Graduate College Council

Dean's Remarks
15 March 2022

Four items

1. Ukrainian students and academics
2. Minimum stipends
3. Admissions
4. Extra work policy

Admissions update

Graduate Admissions Year-Over-Year Report

Highlight table by plan type/citizenship

Calendar Year 2022 Applications as of 3/7/2022

Terms: Fall & Summer

Applied Academic Plan Type Code	US			International		
	Applied	Admitted		Applied	Admitted	
		Total	Accepted		Total	Accepted
Grand Total	2,353	771	250	3,035	702	333
	2,801	862	291	1,888	427	231
	-16%	-11%	-14%	+61%	+64%	+44%
Certificate	7	2	0	2	0	0
	9	7	7	1	0	0
	-22%	-71%	-100%	+100%	0%	0%
Certificate - Online	39	7	6	3		
	34	8	7	0		
	+15%	-13%	-14%	+300%		
Doctoral Degree	1,339	461	108	1,653	325	111
	1,630	485	114	1,204	242	103
	-18%	-5%	-5%	+37%	+34%	+8%
Master's Degree	933	289	130	1,372	377	222
	1,070	343	148	676	182	126
	-13%	-16%	-12%	+103%	+107%	+76%
Master's Degree - Online	35	12	6	5	0	0
	58	19	15	6	3	2
	-40%	-37%	-60%	-17%	-100%	-100%

Current Year As-of Count, YOY Change, YOY Change Indicator and Previous Year As-of Count broken down by

Graduate Additional Work Policy

University-wide policies like these that are related to the graduate student employment, financial aid and related issues are established by the Graduate College working closely with all stakeholders.

Examples: Paid leave policy. This policy.

When revising or creating policies like these, I will work with representative bodies including the Graduate College Council's committees, the Faculty Senate Graduate Studies Committee, the Graduate Student Government and the Graduate Inter-College Advisory Committee so that everyone is heard and the best ideas come forward.

Graduate Additional Work Policy

Background and existing policy summary.

- A student on a full award works no more than 20 hours per week for their stipend and benefits.
- Additional work is not permitted.
- Exceptions are granted by the Graduate College based on the recommendation of the student's advisor and program director.
- Language aligned with the policy goes into contract letters.

Existing Graduate Additional Work Policy

Students who receive 100% of the minimum stipend and a 100% tuition scholarship may not hold additional employment on or off campus. As with any professional appointment, the amount of service may vary from week to week, but the average is usually expected to be no more than 20 hours of service per week for the UD minimum stipend. **Dean's permission is required for any exception to this “no other employment policy” and APPROVAL BY THE DEAN must be forwarded to the Graduate College.**

Graduate Additional Work Policy

Last summer, the Graduate College team reviewed this policy.

- Our policy is strict relative to many of our peers.
- Some graduate students already work off campus in violation of the existing policy. Examples include work on weekends, evenings or off hours.
- The Graduate College leadership team took a consensus view that it is in the best interest of graduate education to give students more autonomy and flexibility.

Graduate Additional Work Policy

Summary of new policy.

- Students may work up to 29.5 hours per week *without requesting permission* from their advisor, program director or the Graduate College.
- Students may never work *on campus* for more than 29.5 hours per week.
- Students may work for more than 29.5 hours per week through a combination of on and off campus work if they are given permission by their advisor, program director and the Graduate College.

Graduate Additional Work Policy

Review process:

- GCC Student Life Committee
- Graduate Inter-College Advisory Committee
- GCC Executive Committee
- The Graduate Student Government
- Faculty Senate Graduate Studies Committee

Questions?

