

**Graduate Council Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2015
Commons Crest Room
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.**

X	Jerry McMurtry	X	Ben Hunter	X	Alistair Smith
X	Julie Amador – phone	X	Jill Johnson	X	Greg Turner-Rahman
X	Alex Corredor		Scott Minnich		Jane Weiss
	Mahalingam Dhamodharan		Gordon Murdoch	X	Tao Xing
X	Laura Holyoke	X	Sandra Reineke		Elowyn Yager

- I. Approval of the minutes from April 1, 2015
- Johnson moved to approve. Seconded by Reineke.
 - Approved with 1 abstention.
- II. Announcements and reports
- A. Introduction of new council members
- McMurtry introduced new members of Graduate Council.
 - He thanked Jon Van Gerpen, Mary Gardiner, and Courtney Conway for their service.
- B. Introduction of Provost Wiencek – COGS structure
- Provost Wiencek attended to speak with Graduate Council about his thoughts for COGS moving forward.
 - He addressed the rhetoric from last year about enrollment being the top priority. He said people felt like graduate school was less important than undergrad. He is here to say that is not true. Upper administration is very supportive of graduate education.
 - Advancing scholarship at UI is the goal, including research and creativity.
 - Provost Wiencek is interested in increasing resources for graduate students – increased stipends, numbers of TA’s, other support. He is looking for opportunities.
 - He talked about the structure of the Graduate Schools at his previous institutions and said he is looking into what would be best for here. There is an opportunity to make changes with the vacant dean position.
 - His thought is that COGS is more service/advising function, rather than an academic college and is trying to determine the best course of action moving forward. His thought is the dean should be a vice provost or executive director, rather than a dean.
 - Questions from Council:
 - Reineke: reported that she has been wanting a clearinghouse for undergraduate research. Will this fit into this new model? -- Wiencek: Yes. This looks like a good opportunity. He will have David Pfeiffer (undergraduate research person) coordinate that with COGS.

-Holyoke: How much of this will be a change vs. just a change in name alone?

--Wiencek: Staffing should not change. He may be able to refocus/re-funnel resources for additional staffing.

-Holyoke would like to see what the change would look like. -- Wiencek is thinking about taking the empty dean line and using the funds to add one more staff member to COGS and two to institutional research, for example.

-Xing would appreciate an increase to TA support to get them closer to the equivalent of a full RA.

-Xing talked about 3+2 programs and exchange programs, focus on Chinese students who have funds to pay their way here. --Wiencek: We need to focus on retention and not only on recruitment of new students.

-Smith: please, preserve what COGS dean used to do; such as, meeting with faculty and department chairs. CNR could easily increase students in their programs without increasing number of faculty. They are nowhere near capacity.

-Wiencek mentioned the idea of incentive-based budgeting. Some tuition will come back to departments if they increase enrollment. He will meet with Faculty Senate about this. They still have to figure out the revenue attribution.

-Smith: There is not a consistent buyout policy and asked the Provost Office to create one. -- Wiencek will talk to the deans to see what their thoughts are.

- Wiencek said compensation is a big issue. Increased enrollment and reallocation of funds is the way to get everyone a raise.
- Johnson stated her support of combining graduate and undergraduate research and getting graduates and undergraduates together more often. She asked if there was a possibility of bringing back travel grants. McMurtry said GPSA offers travel grants. There is no current plan to bring back anything in addition to those.
- Wiencek said he is hearing no objections from Graduate Council about his reorganization idea. He invited Councilmembers to send their questions/comments/concerns to him directly or to Jerry for him to forward anonymously.

C. Update on admissions for Fall 2015

- McMurtry went over enrollment numbers from Rance Larsen with the group.

D. Workshop series for 2015-2016

- Magnets with workshop dates were handed out to the group.

E. Mentoring program pilot program

- COGS is looking at starting two types of mentoring programs:
 1. 2nd/3rd year graduate students would be asked to take a student under their wing. This is like a program at UW.
 2. International students. Ask international students to mentor new international graduate students.
- These will be piloted in Spring '16 with hope to implement in the fall.

F. Graduation survey results

- McMurtry informed Council about the survey that was sent to all graduating graduate students. He shared some data and said the goal is to get more precise with the data. Reports were distributed at the meeting.

G. Indigenous Knowledge Field Camp report (AGEP)

- McMurtry told the group about the field camp. Said it was well-received by all participants.
- Next AGEP event is a research summit in Missoula in October.

H. CGS Holistic Review Initiative

- CGS is looking at the possibilities of identifying the best candidate based on their fit, not just GRE scores. Holistic admissions practices.
- McMurtry was invited to be involved with this project which has been ongoing over the past year. The culmination of the project is December in Washington, D.C.

I. Hobson Application System

- Undergrad and grad will have an online application system, as well as a system for reviewing all application materials online. UI put it out for bid last spring, and Hobsons is the system that was selected.
- All admissions related documents will be able to be submitted electronically.
- There is no final date for when it will be operational, maybe as soon as October 15.

J. DGS Responsibilities and Structure

- McMurtry expressed the desire to re-energize the DGS group. He and a staff member in COGS are currently making a handbook for DGSs.
- The Graduate Recruitment Coordinator would connect prospective students with the appropriate DGSs.
- Q: Should the department chair be the DGS?
McMurtry: No. Ideally, it should be someone else.
Q: Is there list of current DGSs? Duke will send the current list to Councilmembers for their review.

III. Old Business

A. Schedule graduate faculty meeting for by-law changes (delayed in Spring 15)

- Looking at October 6 for the graduate faculty meeting
- Purpose of the meeting will be to vote on bylaws change and to talk about initiatives in COGS.

IV. New Business

A. Priorities for graduate council 2015-2016

- McMurtry asked the Councilmembers to put the following list of topics in rank order to create a list of priorities for this year.
 1. Continuous enrollment policy – revise or keep
 - Our policy is that a student can step out for two years and remain a “current” student. McMurtry said this is not typical of other institutions. He would like to look at a new policy.
 2. Change to requirement for thesis and dissertation signatures/electronic
 - Look at getting rid of the signature page in theses/dissertations. Have an electronic approval system.
 3. Elimination of printed thesis / dissertation

- Do we want to look at the possibility of eliminating the print copy of theses/dissertations? This discussion will need to include members of the Library staff.
4. Policy on structure of defenses
 - UI has no policy on the structure of defenses. Legal Counsel advised COGS to create a procedure manual for defenses.
 5. International admissions (conditional)
 - International Programs Office wants to come to a future Graduate Council meeting to discuss international admissions.
 6. Review criteria for graduate faculty membership
 - McMurtry asked if this needs to be visited.
 7. Revise admissions requirements for students bringing in a MA/MS
 - McMurtry reported that some institutions have changed their admissions policies to only require the Master's transcript for students who already have a Master's degree, rather than requiring everything post high school.
 8. Optional chapter in dissertation / thesis
 - McMurtry discussed the idea of asking students to write a layman's chapter of their research.
 - Xing suggested they borrow ideas from the Department of Energy.
 - McMurtry told the group about the 3-minute thesis competition at other institutions, which we might try here. This layman's chapter would lend itself to that competition.
 - Students would be given 3 minutes to talk about their thesis. The audience would vote for the winner. Cash prizes for winners.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Future Meetings:

September 30

October 21

November 11

All meetings will be on Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. (Pacific) in the Commons Crest.