

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes
March 30, 2016
Commons Horizon
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	X	Scott Minnich	X	Tao Xing
	Ankan Guria	X	Gordon Murdoch	X	Elowyn Yager - phone
	Kathy Canfield-Davis	X	Lisa Carlson	X	Jeff Bailey

- I. Approval of the minutes from March 2, 2016
 - Turner-Rahman moved to approve. Seconded by Xing.
 - Approved with one abstention (Smith).

- II. Announcements and reports
 - A. COGS Dean Position – Provost Wiencek
 - McMurtry stepped out of the meeting while Provost Wiencek told Council about his plan of moving forward with an internal UI-only search for a new College of Graduate Studies Dean.
 - There will no longer be an Associate Dean.
 - The Provost will take some of the funds from the dean or associate dean salary line and will reallocate the funds to Institutional Research.
 - Wiencek said he is interested in moving quickly to get this position filled.
 - He asked Councilmembers to nominate faculty for the search committee.
 - He gave Councilmembers the opportunity to ask questions.
 - He also talked about Enrollment Management.
 - B. Innovation Showcase – Call for judges
 - McMurtry asked Councilmembers to volunteer as judges for the Innovation Showcase.
 - C. Update on AGEP
 - McMurtry informed Council that there are three spots available for faculty, Native American, and Native Alaskan students to participate in the Indigenous Knowledge Field Camp this summer.
 - There is also money for campus visits by Native American/Native Alaskan students.
 - The students must be in STEM fields.
 - Funds are also available for faculty to travel to Native American/Native Alaskan schools for recruiting.

- III. New Business
 - A. Discussion Items
 1. Tuition Remission Policy – Heather Nelson (OSP)
 - Heather Nelson attended to speak about tuition remission. UI currently has no policy.

- Tuition remission needs to be consistently applied through the college/department per Federal rules. It does not matter what the source of funding is; if one RA receives tuition remission, then all students in the same department must receive it.
 - Murdoch asked how the department can be equitable if two students have different types of funding, and one of them is funded by an agency that does not allow tuition. He feels as though a policy like this might impede recruitment.
 - Smith said when a student is being paid on a grant that doesn't allow tuition, the department increases the stipend, and the student pays tuition out-of-pocket.
 - Nelson said she will have to do more research.
 - McMurtry would like to move toward a policy like Duke's that was distributed to Council.
 - McMurtry said his goal is to draft a tuition remission document over the summer.
 - McMurtry and Nelson asked Council to email Kathy Duke with any issues they foresee with this kind of policy being implemented.
2. New Saint Andrews
- McMurtry met with Music, History, and English to discuss whether they would be interested in developing a pathway for NSA students to come to graduate school at UI.
 - Music is the only department that is considering developing such a pathway.
 - Johnson asked if this will open the door from other non-regionally accredited institutions to come to UI?
 - McMurtry: yes, the door will be open. We must be careful.
 - Minnich asked if a high GRE score would work to offset the requirements.
 - McMurtry: not necessarily.
3. International Admissions – Mary Ellen Brewick (IPO) and Rance Larsen (Graduate Admissions)
- Mary Ellen Brewick brought three files from recruitment agents that work with UI. Transcripts from the other institutions were in sealed envelopes included with the other documents from the agents. She asked if transcripts received in this manner could be considered “official” for admission to UI.
 - Rance Larsen said the current policy is that the transcripts must be sent directly from the educational institution to UI to be considered official.
 - Smith said some universities will no longer send transcripts via mail, only electronically. For example, his former institution Edinburgh University has this policy.
 - Murdoch prefers to keep the policy as is, transcripts in a sealed envelope sent directly from the school citing concern for fraudulent transcripts.

- Brewick asked why that is a problem as long as they come here and are successful.
 - Members suggested if they were willing to submit fraudulent paperwork, then maybe they'd also lie on their data. This could be detrimental to our rating.
 - Larsen reported approximately 95% of international students are being processed with unofficial documents.
 - Smith would like us to treat undergrads and graduate students exactly the same rather than be stricter with graduate students.
 - Brewick would like for us to accept transcripts in a signed, sealed envelope regardless of the delivery method.
 - Xing suggested admissions could call the universities to verify the validity of transcripts not sent directly from the institution.
 - McMurtry said an I-20 cannot be issued until official documents are received by UI.
 - McMurtry asked members to go back to their departments to discuss this and bring it back to the next meeting.
 - It was also suggested that ALCP-6 midterm grades should be counted for admissions decisions, rather than waiting for final grades. A Councilmember stated this is a procedural item and is under the COGS Dean's purview to implement. McMurtry will implement this new procedure.
4. Graduate Academic Certificates
 - McMurtry went through the list of graduate certificates that do not meet the new requirements. He asked members to take this information back to their departments to work toward getting them in compliance with the requirements.
 5. Departmental Graduate Handbook
 - McMurtry encouraged departments to put together a graduate handbook. It should include a list of expectations. A list of suggested items to be included in the graduate handbook was distributed.
 - McMurtry said COGS would be willing to help departments put these together.
 6. Admissions System
 - McMurtry talked about Hobsons, the new electronic application system, and explained that some applications will be in the old system and some in the new system, depending on the date the student submitted the application.

Adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Future Meetings:

April 27 – Commons Aurora

All are on Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. (Pacific).