

Meeting of April 22, 2:00-3:30 p.m.
Adamany Undergraduate Library, Community Room

Agenda

I. Approval of Minutes: March 25, 2015*

II. Report of the Chair

III. Old Business

- A. Procedure to verify International Transcripts
- B. Master's Student Showcase
- C. Other Old Business

IV. New Business

- A. Proposal for a Master of Arts in Public History*
- B. Proposal to Rename and Revise the PhD and Master of Science in Molecular Biology and Genetics*
- C. Election of the Executive Committee, 2015-16*
- D. Other New Business

V. Committee Reports

- A. Executive Committee
- B. New Programs Committee
- C. Graduate Admissions
- D. University Libraries Liaison
- E. Academic Senate Liaison

VI. Adjournment

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**Minutes of the
Regular Meeting of April 22, 2015
2:00 p.m., Adamany Undergraduate Library, Community Room**

Members Present: E. Ash, C. Bell, A. Biswas, K. Braunschweig, S. Brown, C. Chow, H. Dillaway, P. Dubinsky, , D. Dungee-Anderson, A. Feig, W. Gibson-Scipio, J. Green, B. Haynes, R. Holley, K. Jackson, G. Kapatos, J. Lewis, J. Moldenhauer, S. Ng, K. Paesani, D. Patterson, J. Pruchnic, P. Samuel P. Sopory, T. Stemmler, D. Walster, A. Yaprak, D. Yingst

Members Absent with Notice: R. Benkert, M. Clark, C. Giurgescu, P. Khosla, S. Lean, J. Martin, A. Mathur

Members Absent: S. Firestine, T. Gates, S. Terlecky, A. Vallerand, D. Walz

Also Present: L. Faue, J. Granberry, K. McMullen, C. Ofiara, T. Neumann

The meeting was convened at 2:05 p.m. by Dean Ambika Mathur.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION was made by Dr. Jeff Pruchnic, seconded by Dr. Attila Yaprak, and passed to approve the minutes of March 25, 2015.

II. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

A. Update on master's scholarships.

- Dean Mathur reported that during the Fall, Winter and Spring/Summer there were several master's scholarships including the completion scholarship. In 2014-15, the Graduate School has about \$1.6 million in funding for masters alone.

B. Competitive GRA competitions.

- There were two competitive GRA competitions. The hope is to stimulate creating grants and get sent grants through their project grants, etc. We have been trying to stimulate activity, both at the masters and the PhD levels. We are seeing some effects of that already, as you know, winter admits have gone up. Thank you all for everything that you are doing, it's really making a difference.

C. Budget Hearing.

The Graduate School's budget hearing is upcoming. Dean Mathur anticipates the Graduate School's budget will be in line with the university average.

D. Accreditation.

- Dean Mathur reminded council members to encourage their departments to complete accreditation requirements in a timely fashion.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update on the Master's Showcase.

- Dr. Heather Dillaway reported that the inaugural showcase went very well. It was small with 49 students presenting in three categories. We gave awards in the three different categories representing five different schools and colleges.
- There was an elevator pitch competition that alumni representing local businesses judged. There was also an oral and poster presentation sessions similar to the Graduate Exhibition.
- The feedback provided indicates that the students got something out of it and hopefully we can expand it next year along the line of the Graduate Exhibition and maybe bigger in the future.
- Thank you to all the 55 judges including those in the room, any additional comments, compliments or critiques are welcomed.
- Dean Mathur also thanked all those in the room that participated in getting their students to participate and assisting in getting departmental faculty, PhD students and Post-docs to help judge.

B. International transcripts.

- Dean Mathur reported that the issue of international transcripts was brought up at the last meeting. Graduate Admissions receives close to 6,000 applications each year, which require verification of transcript information and the other things that go along with that. The staff is not trained to evaluate the transcripts, so there have been several errors. I know some of you have appealed those, and it has been difficult for us to keep up with it. As you can imagine, 6,000 transcripts with all staff members doing all the admissions work in addition to doing the evaluations that they are not trained to do, has been quite a burden. Increased fraud has also started happening. The way it was caught by the admissions staff was when transcripts had watermarks in different places from the same institution. These were not real transcripts.
- We are looking to have all transcripts evaluated by external companies like WES that is used frequently by other institutions. The student would pay about \$100 depending on the country of origin, program, etc... We are not charging students for the I-20 shipping, which all other institutions do. In fact, most of our competitors are doing that. So that's about anywhere between \$50 to \$100 that the student is savings. We also don't at the moment an application fee, so that's saving another \$75 to \$100 for the student. So it's not a huge financial burden. Other institutions are requiring it. So the student is applying to say, eight different schools, for example. At least four of those would be requiring this anyway, so it's not something that we are just imposing, or trying to. So I would like to discuss having this option and starting for winter 2016. So I'm opening it up for discussion right now.
- Mr. Paul Dubinsky, JD, suggested that the schools/colleges evaluate the transcripts. Dean Mathur responded that it might be difficult for some colleges like Liberal Arts and Sciences, Business, and Engineering that have a high volume. Dr. Greg Kapatos asked if the payment is required in U.S. dollars or can be paid with their local currency. Ms. Jameshia Granberry responded that the company sets that up, some use PayPal or can be a money order depending on the country.
- Dr. Wanda Gibson-Scipio asked how long is the evaluation good in case the student does not attend in that semester they apply. Ms. Granberry indicated that the WES evaluation is good for 10 years and Dean Mathur expressed Graduate Admissions would also accept for 10 years.
- The vote to implement external evaluations of international transcripts passed unanimously without further discussion.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposal for a Master of Arts in Public History

- Drs. Elizabeth Faue and Tracy Neumann presented the Master of Arts in Public History as part of the master's innovation imitative from the Graduate School.

- What we have been noticing in history, like we've been noticing in lots of other fields like humanities and social sciences, is a decline in the available number of academic teaching jobs and a movement toward career diversity. A Masters in Public History program is precisely targeted toward that initiative. We want to create new opportunities for our students to be employed and to make use of their training. For some time when we train people at both the masters and PhD levels, and they went out into the field and did not want to be working at academic institutions. They were kind of left on their own, inventing, creating new ways of training.
 - What we wanted to do is to give students a credential that would allow them to enter that market, but also to systematize what already existed, the training that we already give not only in history, but in our partner programs. These are, of course, the three of our most prominent public partners, The Henry Ford, the Charles Wright Museum and the Detroit Historical Museum.
 - Dr. Greg Kapatos asked about the DIA being involved. Dr. Faue indicated the department would look into DIA involvement.
 - Dr. Doug Yingst asked the size of the program that is envisioned. Dr. Faue indicated it would start with 5-7 students at the beginning, but would grow about 10-15 a year, or about 30 students.
 - Dr. Yingst inquired about the employment prospects and saturation of the market. Dr. Faue responded that there is not another master's program regionally and in broad terms public history is growing the fastest.
 - The motion to approve the proposal for a new Master's in Public History was made and seconded.
- B. Proposal to Rename and Revise the PhD and Master of Science in Molecular Biology and Genetics
- Dr. Greg Kapatos presented the request for three changes to the Molecular Biology and Genetics Program. First, the name change, second to change the curriculum commensurate with the change in name and third to expand the master's program to include a master's plan B versus the plan A master's.
 - It is expected that this expansion in the MS program will also improve and act as sort of a farm league for us to skim off the best of our MS students for the PhD program as well. It really won't affect current student. They will continue to follow their current plan of work. They'll be able to take any of the new courses they choose to take. Their degree, though, will be, rather than in molecular biology and genetics, it will be in molecular genetics and genomics.
 - There was no further discussion of this proposal. The motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve.
- C. Election of Executive Committee
- Mr. David McGrann reported that at the Executive Committee did not meet in April, so the nomination request was sent via email. No nominations were received so the floor was open for nomination. Emails will be sent to solicit additional nominations.
 - Dr. Abe Biswas was nominated by Dr. Yaprak.
- D. Other New Business
- Dean Ambika Mathur reported that the Graduate School would host a Graduate Open House on September 30th from 3:00p.m. – 6:00p.m. in the Welcome Center.
 - Dr. Christy Chow suggested that it would be helpful to have all departments represented.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Executive Committee
- No committee meeting in April.

- B. New Programs Committee
 - Dr. Dillaway reported that the committee discussed the two programs proposed at today's meeting.
 - Discussion of nine Bridge Certificate Programs in the College of Education that were closed.
- C. Graduate Admissions
 - Ms. Granberry reported applications are up 8% for Fall 2015, but admits are down.
- D. University Libraries
 - No report.
- E. Academic Senate Liaison
 - Dr. Lou Romano was not present.

VI. OTHER ITEMS

- Dean Ambika Mathur thanked Dr. Robert Holley for his service as his is retiring and introduced Dr. Tim Stemmler as the new Assistant Dean of Post-Doctoral Affairs in the Graduate School.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Sokol
Manager of the Graduate Council