



Date: September 11, 2018
To: Members of the UAMS Graduate Council and All Other Graduate Faculty
From: Dr. Melanie MacNicol, Chair
Subject: Graduate Council Meeting Minutes – August 16, 2018

Members Present: Drs. Robert McGehee, Andrew James, Trish Wright, Boris Zybaylov, Paul Prather, Jerry Ware, Antino Allen, Karl Boehme, Joshua Phelps, David Ussery, and Naveen Nagaraj.

Members Absent: Drs. Frank Simmen and William Fantegrossi

Non-voting Members: William MacCain, and Allyson Douglass

Administrative Items:

Dr. McGehee shared with everyone that the new Chancellor, Cam Patterson, has started at UAMS. He has already had a meeting with the Deans and has reinstated having interactive Cabinet meetings that will be held twice a month.

Dr. McGehee shared that an increase of \$1,000 was approved for all Graduate Assistant stipends from \$24,000 to \$25,000, with the colleges and programs absorbing the additional \$1,000. This is in hopes to attract new students to the programs.

Dr. McGehee shared that he was working with Dr. David Davies on a possible new track for the GPIBS program involving research. He will share more details in the future.

Report from the Graduate Student Association:

William MacCain shared that the GSA had a faculty/student mixer on August 4th at the Little Rock Zoo and it went well. A total of 62 people attended.

He shared that Welcome Week events went well and were well attended. Allyson thanked the GSA for their involvement and help with New Graduate Student Orientation on August 8th.

William shared that the GSA Symposium was coming up and that they would need faculty members to judge abstracts, poster, and talks. Dr. MacNicol suggested that they target specific faculty for this to be able to get a better response regarding help for this event. William shared they would try that once they saw what kind of response they received on what was turned in for the symposium. He shared that the abstract deadline was

at the end of August, and since this is only a Graduate School event they weren't sure what kind of participation they would have. Dr. Allen said that he would encourage Pharmacy/Pharmaceutical Sciences students to attend and participate since they need this type of interaction for their degrees. William also shared that they would be giving out monetary prizes. William shared that they were planning on having 2nd and 3rd years doing posters and Seniors doing oral presentations.

William also shared that they were working on GSA seminars for the Fall term, with the first one being presented by Dr. Thapa from the Student Wellness Center. The GSA is open for ideas for the remaining seminars. Dr. Messias will also doing a discussion type seminar and the students are working with him on that for October. There will be a Student Wellness activity in November.

William shared that he and Leah Horn, Vice President of the GSA, have been having monthly meetings with Dr. Gardner and they have been very productive. The GSA is talking about sending out a survey to students regarding morale of the graduate students. There was discussion in Graduate Council regarding this and the results that would come from it.

William also shared that they are working on a student mentorship program for the new students who have joined this Fall.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Dr. McGehee shared information regarding the speakers for this year's Career Day which will be held on October 18th.

Allyson Douglass shared that Spring 2019 course schedules from programs had to be submitted to the Registrar's office by 9/15. She would be forwarding the email to those who needed to complete this within the week so that they could start working on it.

She reminded everyone that Research Induction would be at 3pm in IDW 126 on September 17th, 2018. She shared that Regina Dennis had received all coat information needed for this ceremony from those who are participating in it.

She reminded everyone about the GUS Training for Student Records that any faculty who are grading courses, etc. needed to attend.

Reports of Committees



Curriculum Committee:

Curriculum committee assignments were made for 2018-2019 term. They are:

Karle Boehme (Chair)

Gunnar Boysen

Melanie MacNicol

William Fantegrossi

Patricia Wright

Faculty Committee:

Faculty committee assignments were made for the 2018-2019 term. They are:

Joshua Phelps (Chair)

Andrew James

Antino Allen

Naveen Nagaraj

Jerry Ware

Boris Zybalov

Dr. McGehee shared one faculty approval form from the Nursing for Sarah Jones. This was approved by everyone.

Academic Senate:

Dr. James shared that there is a lot of work being done regarding the Promotion and Tenure policy that the U of A system is trying to put in place. If you receive an unsatisfactory evaluation once you will be subject to being fired. A meeting with faculty from UAMS, U of A – Little Rock, UAPB, and U of A took place to discuss why this was a bad idea and to come to a resolution to report to the board. Based on that report the U of A Board wants faculty to form a taskforce regarding this issue and peer review being used in evaluations. This was formed and discussions have begun regarding how this is handled across colleges and even programs, since it was found that there is not a consistent practice when it comes to this.

They have talked about the refinement of the process and will continue to work on this to be able to present a plan for each college to have a committee that would review these decisions. They are also working on having an appeals process for tenure/non-tenure faculty in each college. Dr. James will keep everyone updated on this as it develops.



Graduate School

Adjourned at 5:10.