



Graduate School

Date: May 17, 2019
To: Members of the UAMS Graduate Council and All Other Graduate Faculty
From: Dr. Melanie MacNicol, Chair
Subject: Graduate Council Meeting Minutes – May 16, 2019

Members Present: Drs. Melanie MacNicol, Joshua Phelps, Naveen Nagaraj, William Fantegrossi, Boris Zybaylov, Patricia “Trish” Wright, Jerry Ware, David Ussery, Karl Boehme, and Antino Allen.

Members Absent: Dr. Andrew James, Gunnar Boysen, Frank Simmen

Non-voting Members: Dr. Robert McGehee, Latrina Prince, Marlon Louzeiro, and GSA President Cord Carter

Guests: UALR faculty members Dana Moser, Betholyn Gentry.

Approval of minutes from previous Meeting:

We started our meeting with friendly conversations among UAMS & UALR faculty members present. Dr. Melanie MacNicol began our meeting by asking for approval of the minutes. All Graduate Council members present agreed on the approval and we moved forward with our meeting with Dr. McGehee.

Administrative Items:

Dr. McGehee began our meeting by addressing preparations for the UAMS commencement ceremony. UAMS will be holding the event on May 18, 2019 in the Verizon arena at 3:00 p.m. UAMS faculty members will be parking near to the Verizon entrance. Dr. McGehee advised the faculty to arrive at 1:30 p.m. to be prepared how to line up students, but also to be familiar with the Verizon arena territory. He reminded everyone to have their cap and gown and UAMS ID badges.

Dr. McGehee shared his personal experiences in the Verizon arena from previously UAMS’s commencements. He discussed the importance of arriving earlier to avoid delays or issues with traffic congestion, parking, and verification of personal belongings with security, etc.

Dr. McGehee continues his discussion by updating Graduate Council committee rotations for the next four years. Dr. Melanie Macnicol was mentioned as she renewed her position as Chair of UAMS Graduate Council.

Dr. McGehee reminded UAMS faculty members that UALR is removing the Communication Sciences & Disorder (CSD) PhD program. He stated that there had been reports from UALR to eliminate Health Professions, Speech pathology, Audiology, and the Bioinformatics program. Dr. McGehee specified that UALR has not taken any official action yet, however they are in the process in closing these programs. Dr. McGehee stated that UAMS decided to hold off on enrolling students in the CSD program for the 2019 Summer & Fall semester. He point out that UAMS actions were needed so they can develop a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with UCA University and UAMS.

Dr. McGehee mentioned that several UALR faculty members will become UAMS faculty. Eventually, UALR and UAMS consortium programs will move to UAMS. Dr. McGehee stated that these administrative changes gives UAMS additional time to reestablish the MOU with UCA. He mentioned that UCA and UAMS will need to realign roles and responsibilities in these programs so they can start enrollment for the spring of 2020.

Dr. McGehee said that UALR's response to their financial crisis is to close some programs.

Dr. Melanie MacNicol asked if these program changes will create a financial hardship for UAMS. Dr. McGehee responded by saying that these changes will not impact the Graduate School. Dr. McGehee discussed the UAMS Chancellor's state of the campus address. Dr. McGehee stated that this has been a great year at UAMS and he reminded his colleagues about the 1% one-time increase for all UAMS employees.

Dr. Latrina Prince shared with the committee that the Graduate School has launched a new website. She told Graduate Council members to inform the Graduate School of any program changes that need to be updated on the new website. Dr. Prince stated also that the fourth floor lounge is receiving new furniture on May 17, 2019. She stated that the Rayford auditorium will receive a new video wall. Dr. McGehee mentioned that the decision to install the video wall had not been finalized because there were some concerns with this technology.

Report from the Graduate Student Association (GSA)

Mr. Cord Carter stated that the GSA had about 30 students present for their coffee and donuts event. Mr. Carter discussed doubling the amount of donuts for upcoming GSA events. He also shared plans for organizing another GSA event in August 2019 for the new students. Mr. Carter addressed his concerns with the food drive. He believes that students were confused about the pick-up location for the food. Mr. Carter discussed doing a better job of sharing the food drive location in the future. On August 21, 2019, the GSA will welcome Mr. Donaldson, an insurance agent from the Arkansas Insurance Department. Mr. Donaldson will be presenting a seminar to students on how to choose the correct health insurance.

Dr. McGehee urged the GSA president to promote this health insurance event at UAMS because insurance agents will walk GSA students through the process to sign up with insurance exchanges. Dr. McGehee stated that with insurance rates increasing by 30%, it is important for the students to learn about insurance exchanges benefits.

Mr. Carter also stated that the Drug Discovery & Development Colloquium will occur on June 13 to 15, 2019. He welcomed faculty to participate in the event.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:



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Dr. McGehee was involved in several topics discussed in a former directors meeting. All members addressed the changes that are coming up. Dr. McGehee said that he will review those changes at the next faculty meeting. Dr. McGehee stated that he will welcome Dr. Kristen Sterba to discuss program evaluation at the upcoming graduate faculty meeting. Dr. Sterba is responsible for leading accreditation with the High Learning Commission (HLC) in her new role. Dr. McGehee said she will prepare us for the new HLC accreditation review occurring in 2021. Dr. Sterba will speak with graduate faculty on the new HLC guidelines, program evaluations, and other HLC areas of interest.

Dr. Prince discussed IPE and GUS updates simultaneously. The IT department has been working to get GUS and BlackBoard to communicate regarding IPE requirements. The new system will be tested in May. Beginning this summer, students will sign-up for IPE activities in GUS. Once the IPE activity is completed, it will be recorded as a milestone in GUS. This will be easier to track IPE completions.

Reports of Committees

Curriculum Committee:

Dr. McGehee stated that the Health Sciences Innovation and Entrepreneurship (HSIE) program has two courses to be approved. Dr. McGehee assured the committee that the HSIE course credit hours had been updated on the syllabus to match the required number of credit hours. He mentioned examples of the HSIE Snapshot sessions and seminar courses. Dr. McGehee continued by saying he will provide more details in the next graduate faculty meeting to address a new formal document that calculates credit hours. Dr. Melanie MacNicol asked for approval of these two courses and the committee voted to approve the courses.

Faculty Committee:

None

Academic Senate:

None

Adjourned at 4:35 p.m.