



Graduate School

Date: March 2, 2020  
To: Members of the UAMS Graduate Council  
From: Dr. Melanie MacNicol, Chair  
Subject: Graduate Council Meeting Minutes – March 2, 2020

Members Present: Drs. Melanie MacNicol, Joshua Phelps, Patricia “Trish” Wright, Boris Zybaylov, David Ussery, Gunnar Boysen, Frank Simmen, Antino Allen, William Fantegrossi, Rosalia Simmen (Jerry Ware), and Lin-Xi Li

Members Absent: Andrew James

Non-voting Members: Drs. Robert McGehee and Latrina Prince, Marlon Louzeiro (Recorder), and Samantha Huckuntod (GSA President)

**Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:**

Dr. Melanie MacNicol began the meeting by asking for approval of the minutes from January 16, 2020. The January 16, 2020 Graduate Council minutes were approved.

**Administrative Items:**

*Dr. Robert McGehee*

Dr. McGehee began with an update on program assessments. He mentioned the progress of the ADHE clinical nutrition program assessment led by Drs. Phelps and Hakkak.

Dr. McGehee briefly discussed the HLC academic program annual assessment report. The Graduate School has been working on a plan for the annual assessment for every graduate program using members from the Graduate Council’s Program Assessment Committee. The deadline for developing a program assessment plan for all Graduate School programs is May 2020. Feedback from Graduate Council members would be helpful in creating a program assessment template similar to the template used by the University of Kentucky. The plan is to present the newly developed program assessment template at the program director’s meeting and gain feedback.

Dr. McGehee informed everyone that Dr. Clinton Everhart would like to present details of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) at the upcoming program director’s meeting that will be scheduled at a later time.

Dr. McGehee spoke about the increase of stipends to \$30,000 a year, and how he thinks this increase has helped to secure highly qualified applicants for the GPIBS program. The GPIBS program had a significant number of highly qualified applicants this year, more than in previous years. Of the 15 applicants that came to recruitment

day last year, only 3 accepted admission. This year, 14 applicants out of the 19 who were invited to recruitment day accepted admission. The number of GPIBS PhD applicants increased this year. Last year, there were about 123 applicants to the GPIBS program. This year, there were about 140 PhD applicants.

Dr. McGehee reminded everyone that the Graduate School commencement brunch has been canceled this year due to the change in the commencement time. Plans for a Graduate School commencement celebration are still undecided. A possible venue is the Clinton Library.

#### *Latrina Prince*

Dr. Prince shared information on the new UAMS institutional procedures regarding compliance holds and registration. In the near future, students will no longer have compliance holds on their account that prevent registration. UAMS IT will be notified to deactivate the student's access to BlackBoard, GUS, and other student services for non-compliance. Academic advising holds will still be applied each semester.

Dr. Prince informed the committee that students enrolled in 100% online degree program will be eligible for in-state tuition even if they live outside of Arkansas. International applicants who live outside of the U.S. will need prior approval to enroll in a 100% online program. The Institutional Research, Policy, and Accreditation office will need to be notified prior to accepting the applicant; approval must be received before accepting the student.

#### **Report from the Graduate Student Association (GSA)**

Samantha Huckuntod reminded everyone that she will be the new GSA president until the end of the spring semester. Samantha shared her concerns of finding a new GSA president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and webmaster for the 2020-2021 academic year. Samantha is currently fulfilling all GSA executive committee duties. There are concerns about the leadership and future of the GSA if the executive committee positions are not filled. The GSA would like to recruit second or third year graduate students to lead the GSA mission. Graduate students seem to be less enthusiast about the GSA and often do not show up for GSA meetings. The GSA would like for Dr. McGehee and other faculty members for help with recruiting new GSA officers by emailing the students and reminding them of the purpose of the GSA and the many exciting activities.

The GSA started a special interest group meeting for fitness, trivia/games, and foodies (cooking, cuisine exploring at restaurants/dinner parties). The goal for the special interest groups is to meet other graduate students with common interests to build friendships and peer mentoring communities.

The GSA will host a happy hour for graduate students on March 27, 2020. In addition, on June 9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> the GSA will be involved in a collaborative seminar program with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The goal of this event is to provide graduate students with the opportunity to give an invited presentation of their research in front of a professional audience at the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital's Research Symposium.

#### **Old Business:**

No report.

**New Business:**

Dr. McGehee reminded everyone about the programs being moved from the COPH to the Graduate School.

Dr. McGehee invited everyone to Student Research Day (SRD) on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 in the IDW building. Dr. McGehee shared details of the many activities associated with SRD including the poster session, 3-Minute Thesis Finals (3MT), the McGehee Lecture, and awards presentations. There will not be any IPE workshops during SRD this year. He also briefly announced the speaker for this year's McGehee Lecture, Dr. Jonathan Clark.

Dr. McGehee informed the committee that the Graduate School will have a new director of admissions on March 23, 2020.

GUS

No report.

IPE

No report.

**Committee Reports**

Curriculum Committee

No report.

Faculty Committee

No report.

Program Assessment

No report.

Academic Senate

No report.

There was no additional information to discuss after the committee reports. The meeting was adjourned.

Adjourned at 1:00 p.m.