

The University of Akron
Minutes of the Graduate Faculty
March 14, 2018
Zook Hall, Room 113

Dean Chand Midha called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Present: Dr. Philip Allen, Dr. Hazel Barton, Mr. Charles Beneke, Ms. Heather Blake, Mr. John Corby, Dr. Christine Graor, Dr. Gary Holliday, Dr. John Huss, Mr. Sean Kennedy, Ms. Diane Maffei, Dr. Toshikazu Miyoshi, Dr. Tim O'Neil, Dr. John Peck, Dr. Coleen Pugh, Dr. Susan Ramlo, Dr. John Roncone, Dr. Shiva Sastry, Associate Dean Marnie Saunders, Dr. Robert Schwartz, Dr. John Senko, Dr. Linda Shanks, Dr. Mark Soucek, Dr. Harvey Sterns, Mr. Taylor Swift, Dr. Baffour Takyi, Dr. Tang Tang, Dr. Margaret Tung, and Dr. Shannon Zentall.

Approval of the minutes of the 2016-2017 Graduate Faculty meeting held April 26, 2017

Dr. Tang made a motion to approve the minutes of the 2016-2017 Graduate Faculty meeting. Dr. Allen seconded the motion. Minutes were approved without dissent.

Reports

University Libraries

Mr. Sean Kennedy, Collection Management Librarian, provided a report from the University Libraries on behalf of Interim Dean, Dr. Aimee DeChambeau. Mr. Kennedy stated that Collections is identifying areas of need to make responsible purchases within the current budget. University Libraries is reinvesting savings from cuts into new content with an effort being made to meet areas of research. Faculty recommendations are taken into consideration. Mr. Kennedy stated that University Libraries has added ProQuest and is currently investing in eBooks and U.S. major dailies. Congressional Quarterly is available, providing information on voting records as well as other topics (Political Science and History). Lastly, Mr. Kennedy said that University Libraries has reinvested in test preparation materials. This includes copies of the GRE and GMAT.

Information Technology Services

Mr. John Corby, Chief Information Officer, provided a report from Information Technology Services. He reported on the key ITS initiatives: Network Upgrade, Computer Refresh Program, Curriculum Management System, and Analytics Migration.

Network Upgrade Initiatives – Currently upgrading wireless access points at Wayne College, deploying wired network switches, upgrading cabling in various campus buildings, and deploying Eduroam. Eduroam allows one to use his/her UAnet ID on other campuses. A number of institutions in the state are using it, and there is no cost to be a member. Future network upgrade initiatives include surveying wireless coverage and adding access points for any gaps found and increase OARnet circuits from 10 GB to 40 GB.

Computer Refresh Program – Approximately 740 new devices have been provided. \$1.3M allocated for replacement devices and peripherals. Collecting replaced devices,

and many replaced units will be redeployed. There is an ongoing computer refresh program proposal. This is a five-year rolling period. It includes full-time faculty and staff. Auxiliaries such as Athletics, E.J. Thomas, Parking Services, and the Student Union are excluded. The proposal provides for approximately 2,500 units with an annual expense of approximately \$800,000. This proposal was presented in the recent President's Cabinet meeting.

Curriculum Management System – Vendor demonstrations for a new curriculum management system are scheduled for April and will be open to the campus. Searching for a new system in curriculum management to replace the current curriculum proposal system and replace the current catalog/bulletin system. Representatives from Faculty Senate and the Office of the Registrar defined requirements for the new system. The plan is to have a recommendation by the end of the academic year.

Analytics Migration – ZipReports is being migrated to Oracle Analytics. Hyperion Analytics will be replaced by Oracle Analytics. Quick Reports will be replaced this summer. Dashboards currently hosted by E&Y will be migrated. Review of the E&Y process/technology has begun, and migration is expected to be completed by fall.

Graduate Student Government

Mr. Taylor Swift, President, Graduate Student Government, stated that GSG has been trying to provide funding to students through professional enrichment grants. Some projects GSG has been involved in this year include a come out and vote initiative in the fall, a speaker series and campus community conversation. A town hall meeting with President Wilson was held in January. Mr. Swift said that this month GSG will hold an information session for students to learn more about the organization. Elections for new GSG officers will take place in April.

Graduate Council

Dr. Baffour Takyi, Vice Chair, Graduate Council, provided a report on this year's activities of Graduate Council. Dr. Takyi stated that since the beginning of the academic year Graduate Council has had six meetings. Fifty-two curriculum proposals were approved as recommended by the Curriculum Committee. The Curriculum Committee reviewed a request from the Department of Management for their master's program in Supply Chain Management to receive a federal STEM designation and recommended approval of the request. Graduate Council approved this recommendation. Twenty-one graduate faculty applications were approved as recommended by the Graduate Faculty Membership Committee. The Graduate Faculty Membership Committee was tasked with initiating a conversation related to NTT faculty and graduate faculty membership. The committee brought forward issues for discussion by the Graduate Council. The Graduate Faculty Membership Committee recommended that non-tenure track faculty be permitted only to apply for Ad Hoc Temporary graduate faculty status. Graduate Council approved this recommendation.

Graduate Council approved establishing a third category of graduate faculty membership. This new category would be for those full-time faculty members teaching master's and doctoral courses and serving on thesis and dissertation committees (cannot direct thesis or dissertation committees). No renewal required. This new category would be Category I. Current Category I would become Category II, and current Category II would become Category III.

Graduate Council discussed the definition of full-time enrollment for international students who are in their final semester of study and have met their degree requirements. Ms. Robyn Brown in the International Center asked that this matter be looked at, requesting that students on full-time CPT be allowed to enroll in only one credit hour and still be considered full-time as other institutions make such allowance. The Graduate School currently allows both international and domestic students to enroll in one credit hour in their final semester and still be considered full time; however, by current rules they are not considered full-time, since full-time enrollment is indicated as nine graduate credits. Graduate Council approved amending the definition, so that doctoral students who are in their final semester of study and have completed their degree requirements or international students participating in CPT would be permitted to enroll in only one credit and be considered full-time.

Graduate Council has discussed graduate student recruitment and what recruitment efforts departments are currently undertaking

Dean of the Graduate School

Dean Midha stated that this has been a challenging year due to cuts made in tuition and stipends. Compared to other institutions the University is out of line in its spending. Close to \$10M was cut, and restrictions have been imposed. Doctoral programs will not be harmed. Funding is being maintained for doctoral programs. If a department has, for example, five funded doctoral students and two graduate or leave the University, then the department can recruit two new students if the dean permits. No research assistants will be funded through the Graduate School. A new funding model has been established for master's students. Only two colleges, Arts and Sciences and Engineering, received money for new master's students. The deans determine to which departments funding will be allocated and the amount of the funding. Departments should know how much money they will receive. Dean Midha said that all information pertaining to graduate student funding was sent to the deans on October 10.

Dean Midha advised departments to look at what their competitors are doing. How many students do they have? How many students are they funding? How many students are self-paying?

Dr. Peck suggested exploring the possibility of offering in-state tuition to out-of-state students.

Dean Midha provided information on doctoral set aside subsidy the University receives from the state. The University currently receives \$10M and to continue receiving this amount a defined number of SCH must be maintained each year otherwise the amount of doctoral set-aside money will decrease. It is important that colleges continue to meet their enrollment targets. It is up to the dean to determine the number of credits hours in which students must enroll.

Dean Midha stated that next year will be more challenging as a result of change in the funding model.

Dr. Allen shared that the cuts in graduate assistant funding have provided for a \$9M improvement to the budget.

Amendments to University Rule 3359-24-01 Bylaws of the Graduate Faculty

Dean Midha stated that there are currently two categories for full-time graduate faculty membership; Category I and Category II. An additional category has been added as approved by Graduate Council, so there will be three categories as follows:

Category I – Teaching master's and doctoral courses and serving as a member of thesis and dissertation committees for the duration of faculty member's appointment at the University.

Category II – Category I responsibilities plus directing master's theses. Five year appointment.

Category III – Category II responsibilities plus directing doctoral dissertations. Five year appointment.

Dean Midha explained that those current faculty members upon completion of their current appointments will automatically be placed on Category I and may retain Category I for the duration of their appointment at the University if they only seek to teach graduate courses and serve on committees. Faculty must apply for Category II and Category III. New faculty holding the appropriate terminal degree may apply for Category I by completing the graduate faculty application and having approval of the department chair and dean with no additional materials required. New faculty may also apply for Category II or Category III as they meet the publication requirements.

Dean Midha stated that Graduate Council discussed NTT faculty and graduate faculty membership. Graduate Council approved the recommendation from the Graduate Faculty Membership Committee that NTT faculty apply for Ad Hoc Temporary graduate faculty membership.

Dr. Schwartz questioned why NTT bargaining unit faculty can only apply for Ad Hoc Temporary graduate faculty status.

Dean Midha responded that AAUP was consulted and indicated that NTT faculty should not hold full-time graduate faculty status.

Dr. Sastry added that the search process for NTT faculty is not as rigorous as that for tenure track faculty, and evaluation of NTT faculty is not as rigorous as that for tenure track faculty.

Dr. Holliday said that Ad Hoc status allows NTT faculty to teach graduate courses and serve on committees.

Dr. Soucek stated that NTT Ad Hoc graduate faculty appointments could be for five years.

Dr. Allen made a motion to approve the proposed amendments to University Rule 3359-24-01 Bylaws of the Graduate Faculty. Nineteen aye votes and one opposed. Motion carries.

Amendment to University Rule 3359-60-06.2 Graduate Student Standards
Amendment to University Rule 3359-60-06.4 Doctoral Degree Requirements

Associate Dean Saunders stated that the Graduate School currently allows both domestic and international students, upon submission of the necessary form, to enroll in one credit hour in their final semester and still be considered full-time; however, by current rules they are not considered full-time. Currently, University Rules 3359-60-06.2 and 3359-60-06.4 contain the definition of full-time as nine graduate credits. Graduate Council has approved the following proposed revised language to these rules:

For doctoral students who are in their final semester of study and have completed their degree requirements or international students participating in CPT opportunities of 30 or more hours per week, one or more graduate hour constitutes full-time enrollment.

Associate Dean Saunders said that approval by the graduate faculty is now sought to make the proposed changes to the full-time definition.

Dr. O'Neil raised a concern as to the possibility that this would unnecessarily delay graduation for his master's students.

Associate Dean Saunders responded that she would confer with Robyn Brown in the International Center in order to address the concern raised by Dr. O'Neil and send the information she receives to all graduate faculty present prior to their voting on approval of these changes. Associate Dean Saunders stated that in the interest of time, and if agreeable by all present, votes on these changes could be submitted via email. There were no objections to an email vote on the proposed changes to the full-time definition.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather A. Blake
Graduate School