

**Graduate Council Work: VOTE REQUIRED (APPROVE: YES or NO)**

- I. This past year, the Graduate Council worked to approve the composition of the Graduate Council and its standing committees as a result of the campus restructuring.
- ✓ The Council will continue to consist of 16 members; 14 elected by departments and 2 appointed by Faculty Senate **(proposal does not change this)**
  - ✓ The proposed breakdown by college is as follows (for the 14 elected):
    - Buchtel College of Arts and Science (6)
      - ✓ 1 – Arts Division
      - ✓ 1 – Education
      - ✓ 1 – Humanities
      - ✓ 1 – Natural Sciences
      - ✓ 1 – Social Sciences
      - ✓ 1 – At-large
    - College of Business Administration (2)
    - College of Engineering and Polymer Science (4)
    - College of Health and Human Sciences (2)
  - ✓ Standing Committees (Curriculum, Membership, Student Policies)
    - Each standing committee will be comprised of 6 graduate faculty (3 graduate students will continue to serve on the Student Policies Committee) **(Student Policies Committee previously outlined 5 graduate faculty – proposal makes them all consistent)**
    - The chair and vice chair of each committee will be elected members of Graduate Council **(proposal does not change this)**
    - The majority of faculty on the Membership standing committee must hold the highest graduate faculty status (new Category III / old Category II) **(proposal opens up participation on the Membership Committee to Category I and Category II status)**
  - ✓ The Council and subcommittee composition is to be reviewed every 3 years, as necessary **(proposal does not change this)**

The Graduate Council approved this new composition after significant discussion and consideration of data including graduate faculty numbers by college and program, graduate faculty makeup and graduate degrees awarded by college and program.

II. Committee Updates

**Curriculum Committee**

The curriculum committee continues to move proposals through the system. As of 4/20, 87 curriculum proposals have been approved by this committee.

**Membership Committee**

The membership committee continues to review graduate faculty credentials. As of 4/20, 60 graduate faculty memberships have been approved by this committee.

## **Graduate School Update:**

### **Reporting changes:**

The Graduate School continues to operate under temporary leadership. Marnie Saunders continues to serve as the Interim Director of the Graduate School. On 4/8/2021, it was announced that the Graduate School will report to the Vice President for Research and Business Engagement. As of this writing a national search will take place to fill the position; Phil Allen is assuming this role in the interim.

### **Staffing changes:**

Karen Caldwell retired in December of 2020. She has returned for a 1 year part-time retire/rehire and is continuing to handle GA contracts and payments.

Karen Green will retire as of 6/1/2021. Her last day of work was 4/16/2021; we are currently searching for her replacement.

- I. **COVID-19 Response:** We continued to support 2019-2020 practices for COVID-19 accommodations. Working with the colleges, departments and faculty: we extended graduation deadlines; extended contract deadlines; extended funding limits; extended acceptance of Duolingo for English proficiency; worked with programs to waive admissions requirements; utilized email documents to maintain social distancing; extended use of reduced course load policy to 2 semesters for affected students; granted timeframe extensions to students in active programs beyond the 6 or 10 year degree time limits; eased dissertation committee status requirements; and, accommodated students' program changes to accommodate degree completion constraints.

**As last year, we continue to monitor the situation and are working closely with the Provost and Chancellor's Council on Graduate Studies (CCGS) to make timely and supportive decisions.**

## **II. New Initiatives:**

- a. Accelerated Degree Pathway is up and running. This fall should see our first real cohort of students in these offerings (ie, senior undergraduate students taking the graduate coursework). On a case-by-case basis we accommodated last year's seniors that wanted to participate. The current list of programs approved to participate are: Civil Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; Computer Science; Mathematics; Statistics; Speech Language Pathology/Audiology; Accounting; and, MTax. The programs allow the double counting of either 9 or 12 hours of graduate coursework in earning both the undergraduate and graduate degrees. The program is set up to charge the undergraduate tuition rate for the double counted courses.
- b. Cohort Surcharge Reduction / New Opportunity to retain domestic, non-resident graduate students. Starting Summer 2021, domestic, out-of-state students with a bachelor's or master's degree from an Ohio institution (in-person attendance), will be charged \$1 over the current in-state graduate tuition rate (ie, \$442.10 in-state and \$443.10 cohort). We anticipate this practice to be in place for at least 2 years and the current intent is to renew this request. The reduction of the out-of-state surcharge from \$305.88 to \$1 for this cohort, translates to over \$9,000 in savings for a 30 hour graduate degree. Deans and program directors have been informed; current eligible UA juniors and seniors have been informed. We are working on the website messaging.

- c. President's Strategic Awards are up and running. This year we funded 9 students that received 12 hours of graduate tuition remission in exchange for 12 hours of service per week to the university. Students have been involved in assisting with Marketing, Communications, Mental Health Programming, Career Services, etc. Graduate students utilize their expertise (undergraduate training) to advance the mission of UA.
- d. New guidelines for taking degrees online – expedited process. Based upon paperwork submitted to ODHE, we have met the requirements to move existing graduate degree offerings to online offerings with a simple notification (notification read into ODHE record at CCGS meeting). If you are considering moving your fully approved offering to an online option, please let us know. If you are developing a new offering, you will simply indicate the desire to have an online offering in your paperwork. Again, feel free to contact our office if we can provide guidance as you consider submitting your curriculum proposals.

### III. Recruitment Efforts

- a. We are working with IT to implement TargetX as our Customer Relationship Manager (CRM). Once live, this platform will provide us with many more opportunities to communicate with students and applicants. We are working with IT to set up the initial application system and will involve programs as we move to the testing phase. As we become familiar with the platform, we will be working with programs to develop communication strategies to optimize recruitment efforts.
- b. Worked with Career Services to host 1 virtual job fair and 2 virtual recruitment events. As we return to an in-person campus, we will work with Graduate Council and the graduate chairs and program directors to determine how best to assist with recruitment.
- c. We have developed a social media presence – facebook and linkedin. We hope to continue to grow these efforts.
- d. Waived application fee through June 31, 2021.

### IV. Data Efforts – Working with IT to develop dashboards

- a. Graduate Applications / Graduate Enrollment / GA Funding

Please feel free to contact our office if you would like to discuss these efforts further or have any questions.



Respectfully submitted,  
Marnie M Saunders, PhD