Minutes of the Graduate Student Advisory Council Meeting

Coffelt Hall Conference Room

Tuesday, October 2, 2017

2:00 PM

Attendees: Matt Caputo, Richard Diamond, Marissa Lyerly, Max Klauscher , Kelsey Pringle, Carla Spackman, Maddie Stevens, David Wilaj, Sal Sanders, Myia Wade, Angie Urmson Jeffries

Not Present: Daniel Belinky and Elizabeth Zoccole

1. Introductions

Dean Sanders welcomed the Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC) and asked each member to introduce themselves by stating their program and year.

1. Role and Responsibilities

Dean Sanders explained the role of the GSAC. An important purpose of the GSAC is to bring feedback from the academic college to the group to discuss and when possible propose options. Past Councils proposed and implemented the remission of the transportation fee for Graduate Assistants, Grievance Policy and a Graduate Student Leave Policy. Dean Sanders inquired if GAs had the transportation fee removed from their account. Two members reported the transportation fee had been removed from their account today. Dean Sanders asked the group to verify the removal of the transportation fee and to let him know via email. Graduate Assistants who paid the transportation fee will be refunded.

1. Committee Opportunities:

The GSAC also serves on the Graduate College committees. Service on these committees allows for a student voice and perspective in conversations and decision making. Angie detailed each of the committees and asked the group to email her their committee of interest. (Angie will email the GSAC soon with a list of the first scheduled meetings for each committee.)

* 1. Graduate Council Representative
  2. Assistantships Allocation Committee: This committee provides advice to the Dean of Graduate Studies for the allocation of graduate assistantships
  3. Graduate Curriculum Committee: This committee receives proposed curriculum and program changes from College Graduate Studies Committees and makes recommendations on changes to Graduate Council.
  4. Grievance Committee: This committee hears and renders judgment on grievances in accordance with the established Student Grievance Procedure.
  5. Graduate Student Recruitment and Retention Committee: This committee provides advice to the Dean of Graduate Studies on the recruitment and retention of graduate students.
  6. Policy Committee: This committee considers policy initiated by the Policy Committee, by the Graduate Council, by the Dean of Graduate Studies, or by members of the Graduate Faculty; reviews existing policies; and recommends to Graduate Council both new policy and any necessary revisions in existing policies

1. Three Minute Thesis Competition

Angie distributed a handout on the Three Minute Thesis Competition and encouraged thesis/dissertation students to participate and all students to attend the finals. Past presentations have been very interesting and it is a fun event.

1. Need for your input

Dean Sanders opened the discussion to any topics of interest to the group.

Matt Caputo inquired about the decrease in student travel funds available to Graduate students. While in the past $300 may have been available the amount, in some cases, has been decreased to cover the conference fee only. Other possible funding sources were discussed such as: department, college dean and provost office.

Maddie Stevens noted limited parking options and a concern of walking to distant parking lots at the conclusion of late night classes. Suggestions were provided such as: opening faculty and staff parking lots to graduate students after business hours, moving of tailgate equipment and use of escort services.

Maddie Stevens inquired on the Graduate Assistantship Scholarship covering only courses required by the program. Dean Sanders explained the recent switch to the use of “real dollars”. All tuition covered by the scholarship must be accounted for in the budget. Discussion included: many programs allow for electives to take such courses, if the courses are relevant to career choice the courses could be paid for out of pocket.

Maddie Stevens questioned a change in the stipend amount. Dean Sanders reported there has not been a change to the stipend amount. It was suggested that perhaps the number of pay periods may be different or the taxes applied. Students experiencing this were encouraged to contact the payroll office to inquire.

Kelsey Pringle inquired about the reimbursement for travel for recruitment. Dean Sanders asked Kesley to email him the specifics and added that travel beyond the university should be tracked and reimbursed via concur. Kelsey said she planned to attend a Concur Training session next week.

Maddie Stevens and Richard Diamond expressed a similar concern regarding the placement of clinical assignments. Both students experienced limited assistance with finding assignments. Students were encouraged to talk to the departments to request a list, as available at other universities, with contact information at possible site locations.

Richard Diamond and Carla Spackman stated the need for a Mental Health Nursing Program. Dean Sanders will bring this suggestion to the Nursing Program Faculty.

1. Schedule next meeting

As this day/time worked well for most, we will plan the next meeting on a Tuesday at 2:00 in late November. Angie will send an email with the date.

1. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 and the group enjoyed refreshments and continued conversation.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Angie Urmson Jeffries