**Minutes of the Graduate Student Advisory Council Meeting**

**Coffelt Hall Conference Room**

**Tuesday, October 18, 2022**

**9:00 AM**

Attendees: Samuel Baah, Marina Merlo, Alyssa Osman, Benjamin Pickard, Charles (Chuck) Sayre, Emily Stran, Sal Sanders, Angie Urmson Jeffries

1. Introductions

Dean Sanders welcomed the Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC) and thanked them for their willingness to serve on the Council. Each member then introduced themselves.

1. Role and Responsibilities

The role of the GSAC was explained. An important purpose of the GSAC is to bring feedback from the academic college to the group to discuss and when possible propose options. The Council is also asked to serve on committees and support the Grad College Events-Student Diversity of Scholarship and the Three Minute Thesis.

1. Committee Opportunities:

The GSAC also serves on the Graduate Council 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 which committees they would be interested in serving. The description of each committee is below with members who volunteered to serve. In addition to the committees below, members will also be invited to participate in their respective College Graduate Studies meetings.

* 1. Graduate Council Representative: Graduate Council meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month to discuss all areas graduate education at YSU. GSAC Representatives: Marina Merlo, Alyssa Osman (alternate)
  2. Graduate Curriculum Committee: This committee receives proposed curriculum and program changes from College Graduate Studies Committees and makes recommendations on changes to Graduate Council. GSAC Representative: Samuel Baah
  3. Grievance Committee: This committee hears and renders judgment on grievances in accordance with the established Student Grievance Procedure. GSAC Representatives: Samuel Baah, Charles (Chuck) Sayre, Emily Stran
  4. Admission and Appeals Committee: This committee hears exceptions to the Admissions requirement that undergraduate institutions are regionally accredited as well as appeals of academic suspension. Representative: Benjamin Pickard

1. Three Minute Thesis (3MT)

Angie provided a brief overview of this event that scheduled for this term. This is a great event to learn about the vast research on campus in an evening. GSAC members are invited to attend the Finals held in the Schewebel Reception in Kilcawley on November 17th at 5:30 PM

1. Diversity of Scholarship

The Diversity of Scholarship will take place spring term. Angie explained the event and explained that this group assists in the selection of the participants.

1. Proposed Graduate Assistantship Changes

Dean Sanders explained that starting next academic year there will be changes to the GA compensation package. Non-STEM GA compensation will include a stipend and ½ of the instructional fee will be paid. STEM opted for a 60% increase in stipend and the instructional fee will be the responsibility of the student. This will result in an increase of GA allocations to be awarded. Students with a current GA contract will not be impacted. Deans Sanders asked for GSAC feedback on this change. Students voiced a possible concern for International students, for whom the payment of the full instructional fee allows for smoother visa processing. Students stated that YSU is affordable and instructional fees paid even at a lower rate are still a benefit.

1. Discussion items from Colleges

Students stressed the importance of branding YSU degrees to the market. Our degrees offer the courses/material needed but the name of the degree may be outdated. One specific example was some classes in mathematics include date analytics, but without the data analytics name students will not be attracted to them.

Students voiced uncertainty with University wide cuts. Students shared that many good things are happening and the impact has not been as negative as they worried it might be.

GSAC members were encouraged to participate in a focus group that is exploring YSU branding.

1. Adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 AM