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

**Web Ex**

**Friday, October 16, 2020**

**8:45 AM**

Attendees: Ryan Cheslik, Sydney Corbean, Shantia Cox, Olga Gutan, Marcus Harden, Francine Hazy, Stephanie Profera, Chanda Weigel, Evelyn Zimmer

Not Present: Kelsey DeMart

1. Introductions

Dean Sanders welcomed the Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC) and asked each member to introduce themselves.

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.

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: Stephanie Profera and Chanda Weigel
	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 Representatives: Olga Gutan, Francine Hazy and Sydney Corbean
	3. Grievance Committee: This committee hears and renders judgment on grievances in accordance with the established Student Grievance Procedure. GSAC Representatives: Ryan Cheslik, Shantia Cox, Marcus Harden, Francine Hazy, Evelyn Zimmer
1. Spring break

YSU is discussing holding classes over spring break in March 2021. Dean Sanders asked for feedback on this change. Members inquired how the extra week would impact the schedule. Members shared in their experience graduate students do not use this time to take trips but rather to catch up on work or take advantage of a much-needed break. They shared that longer weekends are not beneficial to graduate students as most have longer weekends built into their schedule. It was suggested that it was important to incentivize this decision and if Spring break is being taken away something beneficial should be offered-such as ending the term a week early. While spring break may have a reputation of being a crazy time, most graduate students use this time to decompress. A member shared that students will still go out of town on the weekends and over the winter break. Several Ohio universities have cancelled their fall break and had students voice frustration on social media that the break was missed. GSAC is in favor of keeping spring break.

1. Credit/No Credit Fall Term

During spring term 2020 students were permitted to change the grading option of a course from a letter grade to credit/no credit. (Including graduate students in degree programs requiring up to 39 semester hours for completion, no more than six semester hours can be counted credit/no credit. Students in programs requiring 40 semester hours or more for completion, no more than nine semester hours can be counted credit/no credit.) The University is considering offering this option again fall term. Graduate Council members are not in favor of this option again as it may cause problems for students later. GSAC members voiced favor for this option, stating the students can consider the potential impact the credit/no credit may have on their future academic endeavors.

1. What are student expectations of Thesis/Dissertation Advisors?

Dean Sanders asked students what are some expectations GSAC members have of thesis/dissertation advisors. Specifically, how quickly would they expect to hear from an advisor regarding scheduling a meeting? One member stated they expected a response within 24 -48 hours during the work week to schedule a meeting. GSAC members were asked how quickly they would expect to receive feedback on a 15-page section of a thesis/dissertation. Discussion included a week to two weeks being reasonable and 1-2 months being unreasonable. They noted there were items to consider including the content of the section and the expertise of the faculty member. The group agreed that open communication is key.

1. Diversity of Scholarship

The Diversity of Scholarship will likely take place virtually in spring 2021. Angie explained the event and asked if members would be willing to again assist in the selection of the Diversity of Scholarship participants.

1. Discussion items from Colleges

None.

1. Adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 AM