

MINUTES
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

MEETING: April 1, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: R. Cohen, E. Delavega, T. Dooley, M. Garzon, E. Groenendyk, A. Hill, S. Keith, M. F. Nogueira, C. Powell, S. Roakes, T. Roche, J. Scraba, X. Shen, P. Simone, O. Skalli, M. Trapp, R. Triggiani, D. Unowsky

MEMBERS ABSENT: W. James, V. Tardugno

GUESTS/PROXIES: Lih-Yuan Deng, Vasile Rus, J. Lariscy (proxy for W. James)

1. Approval of minutes from the February 4, 2019 meeting

Dr. Kreuz asked if there were corrections or additions to the minutes, and none were offered. Dr. Cohen moved to approve, and Dr. Delavega seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

2. Proposal: MS in Data Science

Dr. Kreuz informed the Council that this program was designed to be interdisciplinary and would not be housed in any of the colleges that provide the courses. Instead, it will be incubated in the Graduate School. Since Arts & Sciences is the home of two departments that will provide the core courses (COMP and MATH), Dean Poston requested that the CAS Council vote on the proposal. (There are four clusters, and one other College department, BIOL, is involved in the biomedical cluster.)

Dr. Vasile Rus (COMP) and Dr. Deng (MATH) provided a brief summary of the program and answered questions about it. One issue, raised by Dr. Groenendyk was the potential for course overlap as more doctoral programs are created. It was agreed that this issue could be addressed later if it becomes a concern.

Dr. Kreuz called for a motion to approve, and Dr. Triggiani made the motion. It was seconded by Dr. Garzon, and the vote was unanimously in favor.

3. Approval of CHEM 6101 reinstatement

Dr. Simone requested that the inorganic chemistry lab course be reinstated. It has already been reinstated at the 4000 level. When asked, Dr. Simone reported that there were several faculty members who would be able to teach the course.

4. Reports from the March 1 Council and March 27 College Directors meetings

Dr. Kreuz reported the following from these meetings:

The Physics PhD proposal was passed unanimously by the University Graduate Council.

The University College name change passed unanimously. It will now be the College of Professional and Liberal Studies. Its mission has not changed, and it will still function as an incubator for new or smaller programs (e.g., Religious Studies).

The Graduate School will host on-and off-campus recruiting meetings every month.

Dr. Poston's trip to India, which provides the largest number of our international students, went well. The university was able to offer admission to over 30 fee-paying students on the spot, and a few dozen more are in progress.

Lemmie Griggs, who was our enrollment manager and had been with the Graduate School for a decade, has taken a position at UTHSC. Friday was his last day with the U of M.

The Graduate student Research Fair went well; 105 judges were involved.

The Graduate Student Information Fair, held after the Research Fair, had few prospective applicants show up. Dr. Poston believes that a spring event is still valuable, and it was suggested that it be moved to January and to a different location (the third floor of the UC is not a high-visibility venue.) There was some discussion by the representatives about alternative sites, and general agreement that it would be better to hold the information fair earlier in the spring.

5. UniCAS: first experiences

Dr. Kreuz reported that the new application system went live on March 7 (during spring break, which may not have been ideal). He asked the representatives to discuss how the transition has gone, and the consensus was that it has been relatively smooth. It was noted that the request for letters can't be changed, because no fields can be added, but it may be possible for the vendor to change this in the future.

Dr. Kreuz encouraged the representatives to make use of the graduate assistants employed by the Graduate School, who are happy to provide training to faculty who need it.

Dr. Kreuz reminded the representatives that graduate applications that were started in Banner will need to be finished in Banner.

6. New business and discussion

There was no new business. Dr. Kreuz was asked whether the fall curriculum changes would be made using Curriculog or whether they should be submitted on paper forms. Dr. Kreuz said he believed that no decision had been made yet. Although our college is ready to make the switch, the rest of the university may not be, so the Graduate School may use paper forms again for the 2019 cycle. He said that he would ask V. Tardugno about this and let the representatives know as soon as a final decision has been made.

7. Adjournment

Dr. Kreuz asked for a motion to approve, which was made by Dr. Simone. Dr. Keith seconded the motion, and all voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45.

Minutes prepared by Dr. Kreuz and edited by Victor Tardugno.