

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

MEETING: March 13, 2017

PRESENT: S. Abrutyn (proxy for SOCI), B. Burraston, R. Cohen, M. Conroy, R. Cox, E. Delavega, S. Fleming, E. Groenendyk, T. Hagen, T. Hoag, C. Lessman, C. Powell, S. Roakes, T. Roche, P. Simone, J. Scraba, S. Stein (proxy for HIST), J. Topinka, M. Trapp (proxy for ANTH)

ABSENT: K. Hicks (excused), W. James (excused), D. Unowsky (excused)

PRESIDING: R. Kreuz; V. Tardugno, recording secretary

Approval of minutes from the February 7, 2017 meeting (N. Detraz; B. Burraston second)

Reports: February 22 College Directors meeting, March 3 University Council meeting

Dr. Kreuz reported that David Ciscel, a former dean of the Graduate School, announced a new scholarship fund created by the UMAR (The University of Memphis Association of Retirees), in honor of Dorothy Arata, also a former leader of the Graduate School, who passed away last year. The award will be given for outstanding doctoral dissertations. A Council member will serve on the selection committee, and the first one will be Henry Kurtz. This award should start next year.

A copy of the new Graduate Certificate Transfer policy was distributed to the Council representatives. This was needed to comply with SACS, and was approved by the University Council. It will go into the catalog.

A new certificate in Health Systems Leadership was approved. This is a four-course certificate that was requested by the Health Department.

The Student Research Forum will be held two weeks from today, March 27. The students will be at their posters from 10 to 11:30. The deadline is March 13). Judges will be needed, but the Graduate School won't know which specialties will be needed until the last minute. If faculty in your department are contacted, they should be encouraged to serve. A free lunch for the presenters and the judges will be provided.

The next meeting of the Council will be the week of the NCUR meeting, combined with the Graduate Recruitment Fair. For this event, the College will have three tables (one for each division of the College). Dr. Kreuz asked about how preparations are going for the open houses. Just as soon as the College receives the mailing lists of NCUR students by discipline, it will be sent it out to the representatives.

Dr. Kreuz reported that there will also be Graduate Fair at the Lambuth campus on March 30.

Reports: Decision Desk

Dr. Kierluff told us that Decision Desk would be going live on March 13. It is being implemented in the University College and non-degree programs first. After that, there will be a second wave of progressive rollout by departments. Dr. Kierluff said he would be in touch with the graduate coordinators about when your department will be rolled out.

Dr. Kreuz informed the Council that the admissions committees could go ahead and build reviewing bins in the sandbox mode, and that these will be transferred over when each department's site goes live. There is no need to wait to start assigning reviewers for applications. Dr. Kreuz asked for reactions and concerns. Several specific concerns were discussed: social security numbers, visa status, etc. In general, the representatives expressed nervousness about the pace of the implementation. Dr. Kreuz said he would pass these concerns on to Dr. Keirluff, and would emphasize that the departments need some clarity about when the second wave would occur.

Reports: UMDegree

Dr. Kreuz reported that at the College Directors meeting, there was a brief presentation from Justin Dodson, an academic counselor, about adapting UMDegree for use in graduate programs. UMDegree is a resource used by undergraduates to develop their degree plans, and it may be useful in graduate programs where the course of study is largely prescribed by the program.

Dr. Delavega reported that Social Work is already using UMDegree, and that it makes things easier. As long as students follow the guide, it is not difficult. It lets advisors know what the student is missing. They can see at a glance what the student has taken and still needs to take. Social Work has been using this for a couple of years and has not have any complaints since they have started using it. It is accessed through MyMemphis.

Dr. Kreuz said that if any of the other departments are interested in exploring the use of UMDegree, they should let him know, and he would put them in touch with Mr. Dodson.

Reports: Dr. Dhaliwal

Dr. Kreuz reported that the Dean of the Graduate School also serves as the university's CIO (Chief Innovation Officer) and Executive Director of the FedEx Institute of Technology. Starting on April 7, Dr. Dhaliwal will be giving up his other responsibilities and will be the Dean of the Graduate School full-time.

Request: Student Videos

Dr. Kreuz reported that Graduate School is seeking to create videos with students. These will take the form of interviews with the University's videographer, Marty Jewell. Mary Kyle is organizing this, so if any representatives have students who would like to do this, please let her know. Dr. Simone requested that we get a list of the questions or topics. Dr. Kreuz will work on getting those question/topics.

Report: Town Hall meeting (Drs. Rudd & Weddle-West, February 28)

Dr. Kreuz reported that the Governor didn't include any additional new funding for research universities in the state budget, but that the President is still hopeful that an Emerging Research University fund will be created. This would be money that could be used to help universities improve their Carnegie Classification rating.

Old business: GPA policy change proposal

The proposal introduced by Dr. Delavega at the February meeting was discussed. It had been rewritten to make it a bit clearer. Some departments expressed reservations about the proposal, with comparisons to Fresh Start at the undergraduate level. After extensive discussion, a motion to approve was made by Dr. Roche, and seconded by Dr. Topinka. The vote was 15 in favor, 1 opposed, and 3 abstentions. Dr. Kreuz will carry this motion forward to the University Council.

New Business

Dr. Kreuz reminded the Council that the Social Science faculty have until the end of the week to vote on a representative for the University Graduate Council. A link to the ballot was sent out to faculty in the Social Sciences departments on March 1. He encouraged the relevant representatives to vote, and to encourage their colleagues to vote as well.

Dr. Kreuz asked if there was any other new business. Dr. Hagen suggested that the Council minutes be sent out on and maintained on UMDrive. Dr. Kreuz said that he would be happy to do this.

Motion to adjourn (T. Roche, B. Burraston second)

Notes taken by Tori Tardugno; minutes prepared by Roger Kreuz