

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes
9/9/16 3:00 - 5:00

Attendance: Peter Higgins, Anahita Mistry, Jamie Ward, Julia Nims, Anne Balazs, Wade Tornquist, Micah Murphy, Brian Bruya, Brian Spolans, Dave Pawlowski

1. April 1 and April 15 Minutes were approved 7-0-0
2. GC Schedule: Email Higgins any conflicts and he will look into finalizing the schedule.
3. Update on GA allocation proposals (Higgins): Originally, Senate was going to take up GA proposals this fall. Instead, Faculty Senate has agreed on voting on Grad Council recommendations as a package. Recommendations will be presented to the Senate (by Higgins) on October 12th and voted on on the 26th.
4. Revised GA allocation proposals (Tornquist): Discussion on use of resources at EMU and response by AVP Tornquist to GC recommendations: Eastern is “under resourced” in most places on campus. One of the few exceptions is in our graduate assistants.
 - A. Currently, there are roughly 475 GA+doctoral fellow (GF) positions
 - B. The goal is GA numbers at roughly 10% of enrollment.
 - C. Allocation Proposal #11: Enrollment has dropped over the past years, last year’s enrollment was 3900. If enrollment stays within 3900-4600, GA numbers stay the same. If we go beyond 4600, AVP will request more, if enrollment stays below 3900, GA numbers will gradually drop to 10% of headcount unless the AVP persuades the Provost to maintain the current number of positions by preparing a written statement in defense of maintaining GA numbers at higher than 10% of enrollees.
 - i. Most important thing is to improve enrollment numbers and help improve retention.
 - D. Allocation Proposal #10: If the college is increasing in enrollment, the budget has some flexibility. Therefore, if a college gets a GA, they should know they will have adequate funds to cover the stipend. Still, if a college loses a GA position, they will keep the stipend as that funding is needed to cover the effort being lost by the GA position being removed.
 - E. Proposal #15: Higgins stressed that GC did intend to recommend a campus wide minimum that considers cost of living.
 - F. Colleges are able to “trade” Doctoral Fellow positions for GA positions. This would result in a shift in the total # of positions as DF and GA positions are not equivalent in terms of hours.
 - G. Allocation Proposal #13: Different steps and metrics depending on allocations to colleges vs. allocations to non-college offices. If total # of GAs remains constant, total

allocations across all colleges will be constant, but reallocations within the colleges are possible based on several metrics. **Additionally, more input is requested from the GC on which metrics are most important (primarily for step 2).** Step 4 allows positions to be moved between Colleges and non-College units.

H. Allocation Proposals #11 - 13: These proposals refer specifically to General Funded positions only, not auxiliary. The 475 GA positions discussed currently include auxiliary positions. (Auxiliaries – Dining, Housing, and now Athletics - fund the stipend and tuition waiver for their GA positions.)

I. Allocation Proposal #3: Colleges are responsible for the allocation of their own GAs and they will have flexibility to assign positions based on need. The AVP would need to see a summary of all requested GAs, broken into top 80% priority and bottom 20%, to provide some level of oversight. Individual proposals will not be evaluated on merit by the AVP when allocated to the colleges.

5. Announcements (Tornquist/Balazs):

A. Graduate at the Podium: Friday 11/18/16- Proposals due 11/5/16

I. Sigma Xi planning committee (endowed speaker) is looking for additional volunteers.

B. Graduate Research Conference: 3/24/17

C. There are funds available for grad students! Graduate Student Research Support, Travel Funds, Graduate Student Scholarships (single deadline- June 15), Future Faculty Fellowships- see graduate school website for more information.

D. New Graduate Student Policies are posted online (on the Registrar's website).

E. New GA/DF policies are posted on Graduate School website.

F. Support is available for students working on thesis/dissertations.

G. Thesis/dissertation submission will be going digital.

H. IT/Enrollment is working on building a new application system in house. Will be launched in January (side-by-side with Apply Yourself).

I. Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP- international students)- starting this year, no conditional admits for English language deficiencies (it is thought that other reasons for conditional admission are allowed). Students can enter EMU's Intensive English program. When finished with that program, they can be admitted to other programs. Students can no longer go directly into a program of study whilst having an EL deficiency. EMU administration proposes to create a Bridge Program for students with minor English deficiencies. This program would entail 9 hours of ESL classes from this bridge program, and the rest of the time can be spent taking other relevant coursework. Recommend creating a University-wide umbrella program to serve students that will eventually end up in other programs of study, as opposed to individual Bridge programs that serve individual programs. A university-wide program will allow individual academic programs to specify their particular requirements. GC ad-hoc committee will be formed to help prepare a proposal for this program. Pawlowski graciously volunteered and Higgins said he would ask Pilato (COT) as well.

6. Meeting adjourned at 5:06.