Minutes of the Graduate Student Advisory Council Meeting

Coffelt Hall Conference Room

Thursday, October 17, 2019

8:00 AM

Attendees: Jonathan Cambouris, Brian Duricy, Megan Miller, Marty Moss, Jacob Nawiene, Errek Pham, Salvatore Sanders, Angie Urmson Jeffries, Mykaela Wagner

Not Present: Alena Burzynski, Therese DeGenova, Lauren Harrold, Matthew O’Dell

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. The GSAC also provides a valuable student perspective to Graduate Council as well as assists in the selection of the Diversity of Scholarship participants.

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 Friday of each month to discuss all areas graduate education at YSU. GSAC Representatives: Jonathan Cambouris and Errek Pham
  2. Admissions and Appeals Committee: This committee reviews and makes decisions on exceptions to the Admissions requirement undergraduate institutions that are regionally accredited. They also review appeals of academic suspension. GSAC Representatives: Megan Miller and Marty Moss
  3. 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: Brian Duricy and Errek Pham
  4. Grievance Committee: This committee hears and renders judgment on grievances in accordance with the established Student Grievance Procedure. GSAC Representatives: Mykaela Wagner and Megan Miller
  5. Policy Committee: This committee considers policy initiated by the Policy Committee, by the Graduate Council, by the Dean of Graduate Studies, or by members of the Graduate Faculty; reviews existing policies; and recommends to Graduate Council both new policy and any necessary revisions in existing policies. GSAC Representatives: Jacob Nawiene and Mykaela Wagner

1. Discussion items from Colleges
   1. A representative reported that the lack of faculty research bios on the website could impact recruitment. When looking at colleges, students are interested in current research projects. If this information is not readily available, applicants could go elsewhere.
   2. The Cliffe College of Creative Arts and Communication recently reviewed several music curriculum items during their Graduate College Meeting.
   3. Parking at the Labor Museum has been a challenge for graduate students. Graduate students working at the museum have received parking tickets despite a museum parking pass. Parking Services has been notified.
   4. There is a problem with swing courses taken at the undergraduate level incorrectly appearing on the Uachieve graduate audit reports. Angie followed up with Degree Audit and they are in contact with the software manufacturer to fix the problem.
   5. Some programs require student travel forms be submitted for field study courses. Monitoring the timely submission of these forms has been difficult. Students have suggested that a hold be placed on the course until the forms are received. However, removing the hold is cumbersome. Dean Sanders suggested that the instructor offer an incentive for forms submitted by a deadline.
   6. The decentralized career advisement services seem to have resulted in some graduate students not receiving quality career advisement. Students in CLASS are not able to receive the expertise from those in business and STEM seems to be focused on engineering. Dean Sanders said that he would reach out Career Services to inquire the best way to serve the students.
2. Graduate Assistantships

Dean Sanders asked for feedback regarding graduate assistantships, specifically how graduate assistantships should be allocated across campus. He explained that half of the assistantships have been allocated to STEM with the remaining half distributed between the remaining colleges. The overall consensus from the group was that more year round assistantships should be available. Dean Sanders explained that there is an amount of funds allocated for graduate assistantships and it is not expected that this amount will increase in the short term. Year round assistantships would result in a decrease in the number of assistantships available. Funded research grants are an option to increase the amount of GA funding available.

1. Graduate Student Events

Dean Sanders explained that the Graduate College holds a Three Minute Thesis Competition, Diversity of Scholarship and two Graduate Student Socials each year. Previously the Graduate Student Socials have been informal. He asked the group if they would like to see anything more formal/structured. The group suggested varying the time the event is held and polling graduate students to assess the best time to schedule an event. The students will draft the questions for the poll and send to Dean Sanders at sasanders@ysu.edu

1. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 AM.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Angie Urmson Jeffries