

Graduate Council Minutes

November 26th, 2024

Action Items: 3 items for vote, 2 discussion items for feedback

Welcome

Attendance/Sign-In Sheet Reminder

Curriculum Committee

Updates: *Please see report

Vote:

1. Criminal Justice PhD – Black Criminology Track - GA Rassati seconds – vote carries
2. Pharmacology and Physiology – Name change and suspension – Amy F seconds – vote carries

Policy Committee

Updates: The Board Rules that Graduate Council approved last month are now being reviewed by the Office of General Counsel. This is the first step in submission to the Board.

Feedback/Vote:

1. Funding Limits Policy – Would limit stipend funding to 2 years for master's degrees and 4 years for doctoral degrees. Each student would be entitled to 6 years total of funding.
Discussion: What about CCM's artist diploma? Some clarification needed in proposed policy. Questions about DAAP's MArch program. What about dual master's degrees? 2 years. Concerns about 4 years of funding for doctoral degrees – pointed out that for many of these STEM-based degrees, they are not using UGA funding past year 1. A&S – terms limit "cleaner," no limit on scholarship a positive, only small number of students will be impacted in A&S; however, concerns about how this impacts UC's image. Follow up question – what is the ROI on limiting stipend funding? Need to change some behavior around TTD/total credits funded. Concerns about lack of "safety net" under this proposed policy. Question about implementation – under current system, every implementation has to apply to everyone (not just new students). "Semester of funding" defined as a student receiving stipend of 10 hour/week or more specifically from UGA funds.
RM Question – any other terminal degrees, greater than 30 credits, that should be called out for 3 yrs (6 semesters) of funding? AD will be 2 yrs of funding in addition to master's. Anything else?
3 opposed, 1 abstention – vote carries

Student Concerns Committee – Tayo Banjo

Updates: Requests for emergency funding (feedback from GC member that programs would like to be notified when students receive emergency funding, to coordinate with their own emergency

funding), Partnering with CIC on Student Parent initiative, Partnering with FEC on Mentoring Training Plans, Review Mentoring Statement of Practices (presentation), Exploring meal prep supports for student parents (e.g. Amazon fresh Delivering to lower income families)

Discussion Items for Feedback

GC Mentorship Statement of Best Practices – Tayo Banjo – Discussion: How can we ensure faculty are working to improve their mentoring? Can we provide certificates to those who complete these mentorship trainings? That is the end goal. Looking at other ways to incentivize faculty to engage in training. Aim to create meaningful communities around mentoring. Seems to be a need for training/education for grad students on how to be a mentee/expectations around mentoring relationships.

Graduate Student Parent Needs – Rose Marie Ward – Discussion: Pulse survey to grad students about caregiving responsibilities and needs. Over 40% of respondents have caregiving responsibilities. What do parents need? Response: daycare that's not just 9-5. Huge need for evening care. Lactation spaces in every building. [Current lactation locations](#). Grad students with babies need a lot of support. Students caring for adult relatives are in need of respite services. Relocation services needed. More housing for grad students (esp. grad students with families) needed. Support for a spouse of a student who is relocating and looking for a new job is needed.

Updates from Graduate College Groups

CBE and PLA Updates – Competency Based Education / Credit for Prior Learning (new term for Prior Learning Assessment) - working to codify and develop policies – think about these tools as your market shifts – town halls to come in spring

Grievance Process Updates – grievance processes for entire university under review; grade grievance policy for grad students in the works

Department Review Process – Academic Unit Review

Events/Announcements

- Save the Date:
 - [Graduate Student Orientation](#) January 17th 11:00 am to 1:30 pm, TUC 4th Floor
 - [Mental Health Summit](#) February 5th, 2025 from 9 am - 3 pm, TUC 4th Floor
 - [Three Minute Thesis Competition](#) February 26th, 2025 at 4:30 pm
 - [GradNEXT](#) March 25th
- [PeerLead](#) Initiative Mentor Mixer Recap – Tayo Banjo

Attendance:

Amanda Simmons, Faculty Senate rep
Amy Fathman, Nursing
Ben Feldmeyer, CECH
Brian Graham, UC Libraries
Claudia Rebola, DAAP
Emilee Suchomski, Admissions

GA Rassati, CEAS
Katie Hobbing, CoM
Mayowa Ojumah, GSG (alternate)
Megan Carroll, Graduate College
Michelle Kay, CCM
Molly McDermott-Fallon, Registrar
Omotayo Banjo, Graduate College
Robert Buckingham, A&S
Rose Marie Ward, Graduate College
Ryan Thoreson, Law
Sarah Matthews, Graduate College
Shauna Aquavita, CAHS (alternate)
Stephen Brandt, Grad Student

Absences:

Brady Wright
Chalee Engelhard (alternate attended)
Dawn Clineman, UC Online
Farrah Jacquez, Office of Research
Gabrielle Golden, Graduate College
Nalinikanth Kotagiri, Pharm
Sharae Daniel, LCB
Tai Collins, Graduate College