

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes
12:00 pm, Wednesday, October 07, 2020
Zoom

Meeting called to order at 12:03 pm

1) Roll call – (Completed via Zoom Chat and Zoom Participant features)

- Present: M. Insall, D. Oerther, V.P. Reddy, C. Dagli, A. Ichim, C. Chua, C. Mendoza, C. Kueny, S. Corns, G. Olbricht, J. Winiarz, K. Perry, L. Gertsch, M. Moats, S. Sedigh Sarvestani, S. Stanley, L. Alagha, G. Markowsky, E. Malone, C.S. Kim, D. Fischer
- Invited Guests: C. Tsatsoulis, K. Northcut, S. Fogg, S. Raper, S. Fayek, K. Wagner, S. Matson, J. Sinnott, H. Pham

2) Approval of Minutes from September 03, 2020 meeting

- K. Perry moved to approve; S. Corns seconded. Unanimous approval by yes votes via Zoom.

3) Appointment of Ad Hoc Committee to Discuss New/Revised Forms for Graduate Students to Reflect Changes in the FS20 Graduate Catalog

- Informational Update Provided

4) Presentation from Sara Fayek, Council of Graduate Students President – Main Issues Affecting Graduate Student Support

- Delays in Stipend Payments
 - Tabled due to internet delay from student; returned from the table
 - GTA and GRA had unexpected paycheck delay until the end of September. This resulted in complaints from students. Upon investigation, this appeared to be due to a change in the required deadline for submitting payroll at the level of the department, and some programs missed the deadline.
 - “Be it resolved by the Graduate Faculty Council that it has come to our attention that graduate students may have been paid in a less than timely manner creating undue financial strain on students. While we are aware of the unusual circumstances brought on by COVID19, we the Graduate Council, request that the Provost investigate this matter in collaboration with the CFO, and improve timeliness of payments to graduate students as feasible.”
 - G. Markowsky moved to vote; C. Kueny seconded. Unanimous approval by yes votes via Zoom.
- Graduate Student Appointments / Suggestion for Creating a Graduate Student Bill of Rights
 - Concern that 25% FTE at minimum payment provides insufficient financial support. Encourage that students be assigned no less than 50% FTE. Questions to graduate student representative included: 1) how much time to earn 1 credit hour of graduate research; 2) would students prefer more income for fewer students or less income for more students. Other points raised included the concept of, “providing a living wage”; and the concept of, “net income – you can raise stipend payment, but if its spent on insurance and fees then the net income is still too low to live”.

- Current data shows distribution of graduate student appointments during Autumn 2020 11% 25, 5% 37.5, 83% at 50%.
- Sara invited to return to present information regarding “graduate student bill of rights” as part of the November Graduate Council Meeting.

5) Amend FS20 Graduate Catalog by Returning Option for Second/Subsequent Master’s Degree with Credit Hour Reduction (S. Corns)

- **“Earning a Second/Subsequent Master’s Degree**

A student who has earned a master’s degree at Missouri S&T or elsewhere in one major shall be eligible to earn a second/subsequent master’s degree in another area upon satisfactory completion of a minimum of twenty-four additional hours of graduate credit (thesis or non-thesis). The plan of study (Form 1/1-A) must include a minimum of eighteen credit hours of 4000-, 5000-, and 6000 level lecture courses (1000/2000-level courses cannot be included). A minimum of ~~nine~~ six credit hours of the required coursework must come from the group of 6000- level lecture courses. Additionally, for a second/subsequent master’s degree with a thesis, a minimum of six credit hours of graduate research is required.”

- Discussion: Minimum number of total hours and justification; Minimum number of 6000 level courses and justification.
- S. Corns moved to approve with friendly amendment; S. Stanley seconded. Approved by yes votes via Zoom - 14 in favor; 1 opposed.

6) Amend FS20 Graduate Catalog by Adjusting Coursework and Research Requirements for Doctoral Students without a Master’s (M. Moats)

- Tabled for next meeting

7) Submit Nominations/Self-Nominations for 2020-21 End of Year Awards Committee to Kathy Wagner (wagnerkc@mst.edu) by October 16, 2020. Vote will occur at the November Graduate Council Meeting.

- Tabled for next meeting

Meeting adjourned at 1:07 pm