University Graduate Council Meeting Minutes  
Richards Hall, VPAA Conference Room  
December 11, 2015

Council Members in Attendance

Dr. Andrews Jauregui (TCOB) – Chair                               Dr. Ellen Roberts (AA)
Dr. John Ellisor (COLS)                                           Dr. Fred Gordon (MPA)
Dr. Lisa Oberlander (COA) for Scott Harris                       Dr. Kevin Burgess (COLS)
Ms. Kristin Williams (EM) – Ex Officio                          Dr. Greg Blalock (COEHP)
Dr. Clayton Nicks (COEHP) for Margie Yates                      Dr. Radhoun Chouchane (TCOB)
Dr. Cheryl Smith (COEHP)                                        Dr. Tina Butcher (AA) – Ex Officio

Topics

Item 1: Welcome, Lunch, and Approval of Minutes.

Dr. Jauregui called the meeting to order. November minutes approved with corrections.

Item 2: Report from Associate Provost for Graduate Education.

State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement: Georgia has been a SARA state. CSU is in the process of joining as an institution. When completed, it will be easier for CSU to accept online students into many of its programs (if they come from other SARA states).

Domin Conference: Some planning for this next conference is already underway, but henceforth the conference will be advertised as the CSU Graduate Research Conference and will be promoted as multidisciplinary rather than interdisciplinary. The numbers for the last conference were down in terms of off-campus participants. More advertisement will be done in the future. Three-minute thesis sessions will be included in the future.

Item 3: Old Business.

Approval of Graduate Faculty: The Grad Council approved six individuals as Provisional Grad Faculty members; one person as an Associate Grad Faculty member; and one professor as a Full Graduate Faculty member. One other person was approved for full status pending approval from the person’s dean and department head.

Item 4: New Business.

MPA New Tracks Review: Dr. Gordon requested approval from the Grad Council for the addition of three new tracks to the MPA program: a Political Campaigns track; an Environmental Policy track;
and an Urban Policy track. Dr. Gordon informed the council that the tracks had already been approved by the University Curriculum Committee pending the council's approval. Dr. Gordon supplied the council with a written description of the tracks, but Dr. Roberts stated that the council members would need to see the version of the program plan the UCC saw before the council could approve. Consequently, approval of the tracks is postponed until the council's January 2016 meeting. Dr. Gordon will provide the necessary documentation at that time.

**Graduate Student Orientation:** Dr. Jauregui prompted a discussion of this topic, particularly the subject of online versus face-to-face orientation of students coming into the university in the fall. Dr. Smith proposed that a questionnaire be sent to grad students seeking their views on the issue. The council agreed to give the matter more discussion and review.

**Graduate Faculty Approval Change:** Dr. Roberts proposed that the council begin its approval process in March for the fall of 2016. The council approved the proposal.

**March Meeting Date Change:** Dr. Roberts proposed that the date for the council's March meeting be changed from March 11 to March 4. The council approved the change.

**A More Proactive Grad Council:** Dr. Roberts asked again that the council be more proactive in promoting graduate education. She asked that council members think about this for future meetings and included such suggestions as: How to use meeting times more effectively? New ideas for projects? How to become better advocates for graduate students? Etc.

**Spring Semester Meet and Greet for Grad Students:** Dr. Roberts said that students have responded well when departments and programs have held such events and indicated that the Graduate School would help by paying for (or at least splitting) the cost for refreshments. The students themselves could possibly plan department events but should work with program directors or department chairs about their ideas. Students at the last meeting of the Grad Student Advisory Board seemed interested in promoting such events further.

**Item 5: Announcements.**

**Foreign Student Recruitment Workshop:** Ms. Williams announced that she had just returned from a foreign student recruitment workshop and reminded council members that academic departments should consult with her if they needed help in advertising their grad programs to foreign students.

**Discovery Day:** Ms. Williams also announced that the next Discovery Day would be held on February 20. She also said that outreach was planned to get students to return as well as attract prospective students who did not attend the Discovery Day.

**Next Grad Council Meeting:** January 15, 2016.

**Adjournment:** The Meeting Adjourned at 1:45 p.m.