

## **Graduate Council Meeting Minutes October 2, 2015**

**Graduate Council members in attendance:** Timothy Burns, Kevin Chambliss, Gia Chevis, Gerald Cleaver, Sara Dolan, Kevin Dougherty, Steve Driese, Jan Evans, Charles Garner, Greg Hamerly, Barry Hankins, Julie Holcomb, Randall Jean, Susan Johnsen, Dave Jortner, Chris Kearney, Dorothy Leidner, Mia Moody-Ramirez, Mark Morman, David Music, James Nogalski, Peter (Jungjun) Park, Jim Patton, Van Pham, Alex Pruss, Richard Russell, Mark Sepanski, Col. Scott Shaffer, Joe Shim, Jon Singletary, Carolyn Skurla, Rishi Sriram, James Stamey, Tanya Sudia, Sascha Usenko, Suzy Weems, Trena Wilkerson, and Laurel Zeiss.

**Guests and substitutes in attendance:** Beth Barr, DeAnna Toten Beard, Rodney Bowden, Debra Burleson, Channing Cochran, Andrew Gallucci, Elise Leal, Michael McLendon, Gary Mortenson, Greg Speegle, Ed Trevathan, and Laurie Wilson.

**Graduate School deans and staff in attendance:** Larry Lyon, Laine Scales, Denny Kramer, Chris Rios, Lance Littlejohn, Anna Henderson, and Candice Prose.

**Unable to attend:** Gary Carini, Ryan King, JL Radford-Williard, and Jonathan Trower.

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Graduate School Dean, Larry Lyon, began the meeting by introducing guests.

Greg Hamerly led the invocation.

Graduate Student Association president, Elise Leal, and vice president, Channing Cochran spoke about the GSA's goal to address the question of what a holistic graduate education experience looks like. They mentioned working with undergrad students, Grad student activities (tailgates, the faculty appreciation picnic, and farmer's market days). Lyon reminded Graduate Council members to take time to thank their GSA representatives.

Provost Edwin Trevathan spoke about his conversations with Baylor's senior leadership, deans, and the Board of Regents. He said that Baylor is on a journey towards a more robust place in terms of research and grad education. What comes first in successful research and grad education programs: research or grad education? Dr. Trevathan believes that the answer is research. He said that when hiring new faculty, it is important to ask what kind of scholarship your department is looking for, and to find out up front what kind of equipment will be needed. Trevathan said that the financial reality is that most money used to fund grad students comes from undergrad tuition. Aspirational comparison universities have more graduate students and more external funding than we do. Baylor must be very intentional about grad education, research, and external funding. Transdisciplinary research can pay off and positively impact grad education, but we need to consider what our priorities for scholarship are. Conversations about this can help us take grad education and research to the next level. Trevathan also said that Baylor can get some of the benefits of having a medical school without actually having a medical school, by being affiliated with the largest healthcare system in Texas and a medical school that has the Baylor name.

Lyon said that since this is a time of change and transition at Baylor, the newest Deans have been invited to speak to the Graduate Council today. The new Dean of the Seminary, Todd Still, was unable to be here today.

Michael McLendon, Dean of the School of Education, indicated that he has been having serious conversations with SOE departments in order to develop a series of high priority items for grad education. These include addressing the needs of low income areas, bi-lingual education, poverty reduction, and urban education.

Gary Mortenson, Dean of the School of Music, reported that there are 75-80 students in the music masters programs. The School of Music is considering a DMA in Performance, but is hesitant to create the program since the ones already in existence in Texas can fill the needs of the entire nation. The PhD in Church Music already has 6 students enrolled. Competition at Carnegie Hall for the debut of Baylor's top students will help with recruiting.

Jon Singletary, interim Dean for the Diana R. Garland School of Social Work, said that the school is continuing to push forward. He announced that the school had launched a satellite campus in Houston this year that is offering the MSW.

Rodney Bowden, interim Dean for the College of Health and Human Sciences, said that the college is looking at possibilities for partnering across campus in areas of human health revenue streams. By creating two new doctoral streams, he said, the college can attract more scholars and partner with other programs in a transdisciplinary approach in order to move its faculty into being very research productive.

#### BREAK I

Greg Hamerly presented a proposal for a PhD in Computer Science. He said that computer science is not just about computers; computers are just the tools we use. He indicated that the focus is on informatics – using data intelligently and efficiently to make decisions. Informatics is an area of faculty strength for Baylor. The program offers opportunities for collaboration. When asked about how the program might relate to Baylor's Christian mission, Hamerly said that in informatics there are a lot of questions about how to treat people ethically. Greg Speegle then indicated that an increase number of faculty who are research intensive was necessary and desirable. The proposal passed with a vote of 37 to 1.

Andrew Gallucci presented a proposal for a Master of Athletic Training. Students who go through the MAT program will focus on preventing, diagnosing, and treating injuries. There is a mandate to provide graduate level education in this area within 7 years, so HHPR is trying to get a head start. The MAT program will be a financially profitable graduate program with self-funded student scholarships (50%). New faculty members will not be needed; the current faculty would teach year round. Would have a goal of a full cohorts of students (14) within first three years. The proposal passed with a vote of 36 to 2.

Lyon reminded the graduate program directors that if they wanted to request an increase in their stipend and/or tuition budgets, the request form should be submitted by November 24.

Program profiles for each department were distributed to graduate program directors.

Lyon talked about the financial contribution of graduate students to Baylor. Graduate students pay approximately \$19M to Baylor (not including fees or the value of graduate student teaching). Lyon suggested that more external funding, more teaching, more students paid by other offices or departments, and fewer dropouts will help improve the financial decile of departments.

Denny Kramer distributed a flyer promoting Graduate School's open house that is being planned for October 6, 2016.

Kramer also gave a brief review of admissions procedures and reminded GPDs to follow the steps in the correct order.

Kramer talked about weekly recruiting reports and asked the GPDs to let him know if they are not getting the reports or want to modify them in any way.

Kramer said that a new process has been implemented that enables a faster calculation of GPA for international transcripts. The Graduate School uses World Education Services to provide this service.

Chris Rios pointed out two items that can be found on the Grad Tracks website: the Writing Center, which is outstanding and now has a STEM consultant; and Versatile PhD, a service for nonacademic job searches.

BREAK II – Master’s program GPDs were dismissed at the break.

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### **Continuation of Meeting with Doctoral Programs**

Lance Littlejohn talked about program rankings according to U.S. News & World Report and Academic Analytics. He said that Academic Analytics uses scientifically based metrics similar to those used by the NRC. When comparing U.S. News & World Report data with Academic Analytics, discrepancies can be seen. The discrepancies result from the fact that U.S. News & World Report’s data is reputation-based and not scientific at all. Littlejohn said that one way to speed up Baylor’s good reputation is to develop promo articles. Such articles could be posted on the Graduate School website in order to highlight improvements in our graduate programs. The Graduate School would like to assist GPDs with writing articles for graduate programs that can be posted on the website and sent out to colleagues across country.

Rios announced that alumni placement deciles would be included on the program profiles next year.

Rios also spoke about student insurance. He said that the goal of being able to offer the insurance subsidy to more graduate students was met. The subsidy was offered to 51% more graduate students this year.

Lyon talked about Academic Analytics’ preliminary data for faculty scholarly productivity deciles. He mentioned that Baylor now has 12 programs at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile or above. He encouraged departments to keep up the good work and adjourned the meeting.

*Minutes submitted by  
Anna Henderson*

*October 5, 2015*