

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes April 16, 2021

Graduate Council members in attendance: TEAMS virtual meeting - Janet Bagby, Francis Beckwith, Nicholas Benson, Maria Boccia, Erica Bruce, Timothy Burns, Gerald Cleaver, Sandi Cooper, Julie Covington, Tonya Davis, Meghan DiLuzio, Kevin Dougherty, Eva Doyle, Jim Ellor, Kristi Feutz, Neil Fleming, Delilah Flores-Rivera, Kendra Gagnon, Andrew Gallucci, Marian Gillard, Perry Glanzer, Amber Glowski, Jane Harvill, Becky Ivy, Dave Jortner, Ryan King, Dorothy Leidner, Christine Limbers, Cece Lively, Diane Loeb, Joaquin Lugo, Kimberly McCray, Timothy McKinney, Lacy NcNamee, Marlene Neill, Suzanne Nesmith, James Nogalski, Dan Peppe, Linda Plank, Alexander Pruss, Brian Raines, Michael Richards, Terrill Saxon, Lakia Scott, Mark Sepanski, Susan Sherman, Jaeho Shim, Stephen Silverstein, Eunjee Song, Rishi Sriram, Tim Thomasson, Andrea Turpin, Tanya Vernon, John Wilson, Laurie Wilson, Matthew Wood, Joe Yelderman.

Guests and substitutes in attendance: PaToya Hall, Meg Hoefler, Brett Powell, Lauren Vorderkunz, Nolan Yard.

Graduate School deans and staff in attendance: Larry Lyon, Beth Allison Barr, Sara Dolan, Steve Driese, Chris Rios, Anna Henderson, Sheila Dooley, Sandra Harman, Tosha Hendrickson, Alanna Martinez, Dana Matthews, Alana Schaeper, Laura Sepanski.

Unable to attend: Scott Cunningham, Forest Kim, Stacy McCracken, Laine Scales.

Graduate School Dean, Larry Lyon, greeted group. Dean Lyon mentioned his hope that this would be the last virtual Grad Council. Dean Lyon welcomed newest GPDs and each introduced themselves. Dr. Sara Dolan led the invocation.

The minutes from August 17, 2020 were presented for review – no changes noted.

Dr. Beth Allison Barr shared a [video](#) about external grant opportunities from OVPR. Fellowships are available for STEM/Non-STEM students. These efforts assist students in finding funding opportunities for their research.

Dr. Rios shared about graduate student payroll, graduate tuition process and budgets, student employment policies (including insurance subsidy eligibility).

New student employment categories include (1) Graduate Apprentices and (2) Graduate Student Employees. GAs are full-time students who receive 100% tuition, work 20 hours a week, and should be considered like junior faculty. GSEs are paid monthly or biweekly, may serve as TAs or RAs, and might receive some level of support. Internal stipend budgets cannot be used for other costs. Tuition remission is granted at admission and is consistent each term while financial aid can be additionally granted in varied amounts. Stipend levels can differ. GAs may be paid for up to 28 hours (20hrs stipend + 8hrs supplemental pay).

Payroll—Base stipends do not need to be renewed term by term. Supplemental pay must be renewed to continue (hourly jobs have an end date).

Insurance—There is a hard waiver policy process in place. Students that do not wish to purchase Baylor student health insurance must opt out of the plan before the end of open enrollment through this hard waiver. GAs are the only students eligible for the health insurance subsidy. The subsidy level is 80% of the individual premium and GAs will not lose their subsidy.

Q: If a student does not finish in time, will their tuition continue to be paid?

A: Tuition will continue to be paid for up to 8 years for doctoral students. Stipends stops at 4 years. The Graduate School encourages stipend end dates.

Q: Can students receive a full stipend for less than 20 hours of work?

A: No.

Dean Lyon invited a discussion on faith and learning's connection to the Christian research university.

Dean Lyon announced that Alana Schaeper has replaced Sherry Sims concerning graduate student records. The Graduate School also obtained funding to hire a Slate expert (who has since been hired: Eric Hooley).

Dean Lyon introduced three new categories for considering graduate programs: (1) On-Campus Research Doctorates, (2) On-Campus Master's Programs, and (3) Online Professional Programs.

Dr. Steve Driese introduced Dr. Tanya Vernon who created and taught a new graduate course, GBL 5201, concerning teaching in English for international teaching assistants. Students received assistance regarding pronunciation, teaching experience, cultural differences, responding to questions, and more. Each student gave several presentations to practice new competencies. Starting in the Fall semester of 2021, International students with TOEFL speaking subscores <25, or IELTS speaking subscores <7,5, cannot teach in the classroom unless they are vetted and trained in teaching in English or take a 30-minute ESL test administered before the start of the semester and score at least an 80.

Dr. Beth Allison Barr spoke about advisor/advisee agreements. When students have effective mentoring experiences, they perform better and finish their degree more quickly. This is not a required activity but will help GPDs and advisors/faculty. Mentoring plans provide a clear framework for all involved. Dr. Barr asked for feedback.

Dean Lyon briefly spoke about the responsibility of departments' use of research doctorate startup funding.

Dean Lyon spoke briefly about the prospects for future stipend raises. The Graduate School will be reviewing financial models concerning stipend raises for all doctoral students. We know we need to remain competitive, even in the current COVID regression market.

Grad Council dismissed.