

Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Senate  
September 27, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Carlos Wexler in S204 Memorial Union.

Senators and administrative representatives attending: Royce Barondes, Sue Boren, Amy DeClue, Keith Greenwood, Johanna Kramer, Rose Marra, Azlin Mustapha, Carlos Wexler, Jill Kanaley, Laura McCann, Karl Hammond, Xuemin Yan, Deidre Wipke-Tevis, Cheryl Offutt, Alan Parrish, Sarah Senff (Graduate Student Association), Jeni Hart, Lissa Behm-Morawitz, Ashley Siebenaler, and Anita Cowan (Graduate Studies)

Motion to approve the agenda, it was seconded and approved.

Carlos Wexler called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

Meeting minutes from last meeting were approved via email in June, 2017.

**Agenda item # 5 – Appointment of members of Academic Affairs and awards committee**

Chair is Tony Lupo.

Committee is asking for more volunteers would like to have at least 5 more people on committee.

Committee stated that last year the applications were low

Senate discussed how the awards process works to inform new and potential committee members about the scope of work.

OGS sent call on August 31, 2017 for fall award nominations; deadline is November 1, 2017.

\*\*Senate was reminded that all members of the GFS should serve on one of the Senate subcommittees.

**Agenda Item #6 – Election of member at large (also serves as GFS liaison to Faculty council)**

It was suggested that we need to have a member of the Graduate Faculty Senate on Faculty Council as a member at large; previous person had to step down. Call for nominations.

Amy DeClue volunteered, it was seconded and approved.

**Agenda Item # 7 – committee reports**

**i. Approval of new courses**

Carlos Wexler asked if Senate would please review list prior to each meeting to see if there are any concerns, including duplication with existing courses. He recommended that the senators email the Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) in advance of the meeting to voice concerns.

Senate discussed why it must approve 4000 level courses. Only those that have a matching 7000 level need to be approved. However, not all 7000 courses will be cross-level—there are 7000 level courses that do not have an undergraduate component.

Gui Desouza and other senators raised concern generally about courses proposed for approval that have unclear titles or suggest duplication of existing courses. Specifically, Data Science 7635 was discussed as its name did not seem to accurately reflect the course content and the current title suggested duplication of an existing graduate course.

It was motioned to check for similarity; if found that there is not similarity, it will be approved via email. Otherwise, the faculty member responsible for the course will be encouraged to change the name to accurately reflect the course.

115 courses were reviewed, some are new, others were changes to existing courses.

AAC approved all new and revised courses.

Motioned to approve list w/ exception

Seconded

## ii. **New programs and changes**

- a. Kathleen Miller presented proposal to committee for Public Affairs and Health Administration dual master's degree (MPA, MHA)

\*\* Senate suggested rewording some language and clarifying the hours – once received committee would approve

\*\* motioned to approve once clarification is made  
seconded

- b. Educational, School and Counseling Psychology Department: Graduate certificate in Multicultural Education. This program was approved in 2010; program recommends reducing requirements from 15 to 12 credit hours. This would eliminate one of the electives of the approved certificate, but not a core component of the certificate.

Motioned to vote to approve change in certificate credit hours.

Seconded, and approved by Senate.

- c. Agricultural Systems Management: Precision Agriculture Grad Certificate.  
This was discussed at a spring meeting with same concern: not all students are able to take the courses. Specifically, if a student completes their undergraduate degree and has taken a number of the courses as part of that degree, they would need to take other courses instead. The program revised the original proposal to add other courses to replace those that the student may have taken as an MU undergraduate so that they could also be eligible for the certificate. Concerns were discussed about whether this alternative path diluted the purpose of the certificate because those students might take a substantially different set of courses.

Motioned to vote and seconded.

13 yea            1 no            2 abstain

The certificate was approved.

## III. Misc. AAC

- a. Revised doctoral faculty criteria for Human Environmental Sciences  
\*\*Postponed for next meeting due to time

B. Awards- postponed

**Agenda item # 8 – Office of Graduate Studies update:**

- Policy subcommittee of AAC will be receiving an email to establish a first meeting time.
- The International Teaching Assistant Program is participating in a comprehensive program review. The committee call will come from the Chancellor and will be co-chaired by the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX and OGS. The program review committee will consider the policies and procedures for Mizzou’s Assessment of Classroom Communication Skills (MACCS) and assessment waivers.
- At this time, there are no changes in subsidies for insurance for graduate students with qualifying titles and fellowships.
- Last year’s call for the PFF Postdoctoral Program for Faculty Diversity received 128 applicants. OGS will distribute a new call for the 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort for this program within a month. The goal is to hire 4 additional postdocs with 2 year appointments.
- AAU data transparency – OGS is providing information. See end of the minutes.
- Updated travel ban – we have 62 students affected, all but 6 are graduate students OGS office has reached out to these students.
- OGS is currently updating the website and should be live in the spring.

**Agenda item # 9. – Graduate Student Association**

Sarah Senff reported that GSA is hosting the “Writers’ Room” on Thursdays 6-9 in library. This is an opportunity for graduate students to have a focused time to write and to share feedback about their progress.

Moved for meeting adjournment  
Seconded

Meeting adjourned

AAU Data Transparency Memo:

TO: AAU Presidents and Chancellors  
FROM: Mary Sue Coleman, AAU President  
RE: Statement by AAU Chief Academic Officers on Doctoral Education Data Transparency

I am writing to inform you that the statement below was endorsed by the Chief Academic Officers at their annual meeting. I am pleased to support the CAO's commitment to develop the infrastructure and institutional policies to increase the availability and transparency of PhD program data.

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## **Statement by AAU Chief Academic Officers on Doctoral Education Data Transparency**

*The statement below was endorsed by the Chief Academic Officers representing the universities that make up the Association of American Universities at their annual meeting on September 12, 2017.*

Numerous high-level reports over the past two decades have identified ways to improve PhD education. One frequently identified barrier to improvement is the lack of transparent data on PhD programs. The Chief Academic Officers of the Association of American Universities call on all PhD granting universities and their respective PhD granting colleges, schools, and departments, to make a commitment to providing prospective and current students with easily accessible information. This should include data on matters such as student demographics, time to degree, financial support, and career paths and outcomes within and outside of academia. AAU institutions should commit to developing the infrastructure and institutional policies required to uniformly capture and make public such data.

CC: Chief Academic Officers  
AGS Deans  
Council on Federal Relations