

APPROVED Minutes

UMD Graduate Programs Committee

Date: September 22, 2017

Time: 2 – 3pm

Room: Darland 520

Approved October 6, 2017

Attendees: Peter Willemsen (*Chair*; Computer Science), Yongcheng Qi (A/C Math), Mike Rother (Chem E, M Eng), Paul Kiprof (Chem E), Sanna Shields for Carlos Carranza-Torres (Civ Eng), Charles Rick (Ed S), Lynn McGraw for Julie Ernst (MEEEd), Jing Bai (MSEE), Bob Feyen (MEHS, MSEM), Debao Zhou (MSME), Jennifer Liang (IBS), Alec Habig (Physics), Lara LaCaille (Psych), Lake Dziengel (MSW), Tadd Johnson (MTAG), Randall Hicks (WRS), Erik Brown (AVCGER), Phil Peper (Student Representative), Amber White (Student Representative)

Absent: Al Roline (MBA), Faith Loven (CSD), Julia Williams (M Ed), Craig Stroupe (English), Nigel Watrus (Geology), David Beard (MLS), Mark Whitlock (Music), Jon Rumbley (PharmD, AHC)

Guest: Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Education Scott Lanyon

Call to order at 2:00pm

I. Approval of September 8, 2017 minutes.

Approved as read.

II. Reports of Officers, Boards, Standing Committees – tabled

III. Reports of Special Committees – tabled

IV. Special Orders

a. Election of Graduate Programs Committee Chair – MOTION to elect Pete Willemsen made and seconded. Carried by unanimous vote.

b. Election of Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities representative – MOTION to elect Lara LaCaille made and seconded. Carried by unanimous vote.

V. Unfinished Business and General Orders – tabled

VI. New Business.

Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Education Scott Lanyon.

Following introductions, Dean Lanyon spoke about a number of initiatives in the Graduate School:

a. Enhancing the quality of graduate education

i. Enhancing diversity in grad ed through recruiting efforts, and providing a supportive environment (climate) so that students persevere.

- ii. Improving graduate advising by providing DGSs with tools to help with communication between students and advisors.
- iii. Professional development for graduate students – graduate programs are traditionally geared for students who will go on to academic careers. Programs also need to prepare students to go into industry by providing training in leadership, management, budgeting, etc. Tools for students considering paths other than academia are:
 1. Versatile PhD (also has info for master’s students) – online tool for students that talks about alternate career paths
 2. Imagine PhD – similar tool for students in the humanities

Dean Lanyon then took questions from the floor:

- a. How can UMD grad programs increase the pool of diverse applicants?
 - i. The Graduate School Diversity Office assists programs with recruitment, retention, and funding of underrepresented students. Derek Maness is the contact for [application fee waivers](#).
 - ii. Graduate students are encouraged to attend diversity conferences to share their experiences and connect with other underrepresented students. The Graduate School does not currently have funds to support travel, but QMA money could be used for this.
 - iii. Programs should keep in mind that students are not only being recruited to a program, but also to the campus (support resources, student groups, etc.) and to the community (housing, diversity in the community, etc.).
 - iv. Having to pay double application fees to be considered by both UMTC and UMD programs in the same field can be a barrier to some applicants. Some UMD programs have arrangements with UMTC programs (e.g., Math, Physics) to view applicants not accepted at UMTC. A “check the box” item on the graduate application, similar to that on the undergraduate application, was suggested.
 - v. GAGE – Grants to Advance Graduate Education. Beginning in the 2018-19 academic year, QMA funds will be directed toward increasing diversity in graduate education through recruitment, retention, satisfaction, etc. Details are still being worked out.
 - vi. Programs would benefit from having some guidance on best practices for supporting students from underrepresented groups – the Grad School Diversity Office is working on developing some resources.
 - vii. It was suggested that the “don’t recruit your own undergraduates” philosophy that exists in some disciplines may not be the best approach for underrepresented students, who may already have a support network at their undergrad institution that can help them persevere in grad school. However, students should be advised that doing undergrad and graduate degrees at the same institution can be a “black mark” on their CV in some fields.
 - viii. Bridging funds – encourage students to apply for external fellowships. If the fellowship pays at least \$15,000 (disbursed directly to the University), the University will make up the difference in funding. It was remarked that the focus for bridging funds is currently on PhD student – will this change?

- b. Other questions:
 - i. Barriers to service on examination committees for UMTC graduate students
 - 1. Seen as “poaching” students by some programs
 - 2. Travel expenses – Graduate School may have some funds to pay for travel by committee members.
 - ii. Use of UMTC library resources by UMD students – resources are unequal. Students in All-University programs (e.g., IBS and WRS) have access to databases in both libraries. UMD faculty on UMTC grad faculty lists also have access to both libraries.
 - 1. This is governed by University’s contracts with publishers, not the Graduate School.
 - iii. Difference of University schedules creates problems for students, faculty, especially in classes that have both UMD and UMTC students participating.

VII. Adjourned at 2:56pm