

**UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA  
GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING  
April 4, 2018 MINUTES  
Farzaneh Hall, Room 142**

All actions taken by the Graduate Council will have a twenty-one (21) day faculty protest period except for new courses, course changes, and petitions, which will be considered approved by the Graduate Faculty if no written protest is received in the Graduate College within seven (7) days.

**Present:** Randall Hewes, James Sluss, Nancy LaGreca, Jennifer Kisamore (via phone conference), Oluwatobi Ajagbe, Sally Beach, Susan Burke, Shane Connelly, Natalie Daugherty, Peter Gade, Phil Gibson, Tohren Kibbey, Susan Laird, Nina Livesey, Patrick McCann, Sanna Pederson, Zulfiquar Reza, John Quyen Wickham, Pradeep Yadav

**Absent:** Mike Biggerstaff, Lupe Davidson, Mark Raymond, Jeremiah Stinnett, Charles Warnken

**Guests:** Elizabeth Pober, Susan Sisson (HSC, via videoconference), Sara Vaughan, Mirelsie Velazquez

**Description of General Business**

- The minutes from March 7, 2018 were unanimously approved.

**Program Modifications**

1. Educational Studies MEd—program requirement change was unanimously approved.
2. Interior Design MSID—program requirement change was unanimously approved.

**Discussion Items**

- Draft graduate faculty policy updates from Graduate Faculty Membership Committee  
Dean Hewes gave an overview of the draft documents the committee has been reviewing in light of the recent changes in the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) assumed practices for accredited institutions. One of the documents needing revision is the Graduate Faculty Charter. Dean Hewes discussed the proposed updates to the document, including a new section that defines “tested experience” in determining whether a faculty member is qualified for Graduate Faculty membership, in accordance with HLC guidance.

**Interdisciplinary Degree Programs**

- Student request for change in committee member on Master’s Thesis Topic and Committee Membership form was approved.
- Student request for change in the program of study on the Request for Change in Doctoral Advisory Conference Report was approved.

**Subcommittee Reports**

Dr. Nancy LaGreca submitted the following report of the Academic Program Review Committee meeting:

- Three of four reports have been drafted: Aviation, Microbiology & Plant Biology, and Physics & Astronomy. The committee has just received the external review report for Biology; the final draft will now be prepared.

Dr. Susan Burke provided the following information from the Faculty Senate Meeting on March 11, 2018:

- Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT): Chris Walker and Scott Miller spoke about the goals and functions of BIT. They are happy to come to departments to talk with individuals or groups. They assist students in distress as well as those working with students in distress. Distress can include crippling anxiety, suicidal thoughts, and concerning behavior changes over time. BIT extends opportunities and offers resources but does not mandate compliance—it is up to the student to say yes. There were 560 reports to BIT between January 2017 and March 2018; with that volume they are only able to get back to reporters if they have decided there is an issue. However, be assured that BIT responds to every single report, but they just may not report back to the person who filed the report. Plus, students have a right to confidentiality.
- BIT also has a committee (TARC—Threat Assessment & Review Committee) that deals with threats of campus violence. However, if you feel threatened in the moment, call 911. There have only been a handful of gun threats in the last three years—those go automatically to the head of the OU Counseling Center, OU Police Department, and the BIT senior secretary. Early intervention can derail possible threats.

Dr. Susan Sisson from the Health Sciences Center and Quyen Wickham from the Norman campus gave the following report from the March 15, 2018 HSC Graduate Council meeting:

- Dean Pullin from the Price College of Business has made efforts to increase connections with OUHSC. Discussions have included:
  - Nutrition Sciences graduate certificate program
  - Issues regarding student differences in fees and tuition between the two campuses
  - Recruiting Center for the Creation of Economic Wealth teams from OUHSC.
- The College of Arts & Sciences and College of Public Health co-undergraduate degree planning is progressing (this will be the first cross-campus undergraduate degree program).
- Brief discussion of bringing HSC grad students (who do a “3-Minute Flash Talk” competition) together with Norman grad students for a health-focused satellite Three Minute Thesis event. The topic will be added to the agenda for Deans’ discussion in May.
- The 2018 Graduate Research Education and Technology (GREAT) Symposium will be held April 9-12.
- There was a brief discussion regarding the need to determine and address mental health issues in graduate students.

Dr. James Sluss, Dean of the Tulsa Graduate College, offered the following:

- They are exploring ways to encourage participation of their students in the Three Minute Thesis Competition.

### **Course Modifications and Proposals**

The following course modifications and proposals have been approved by the Graduate Council and will be forwarded to the Academic Programs Council for further approval after the seven (7) day protest period. Only brief information regarding approved changes follows; however, original course change proposals will be on file in the Graduate College through the seven-day protest period if you have questions or concerns about any of the following. Please contact the Graduate Council Secretary, Linda Kelly, at 325-3106, if you wish to review any of these materials.

AME 5233. Change in prerequisites and restrictions; removal of slashlisting.

BME 5233. Change in prerequisites and restrictions.

C S 5043. Change in prerequisites; removal of restrictions.  
DSA 5031. Course addition.  
EDAH 5563. Course addition.  
EDAH 5573. Course addition.  
EDWL 5023. Course addition.  
EDWL 5033. Course addition.  
MIT 5822. Course addition.  
MIT 5832. Course addition.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be May 2, 2018.

**DISTRIBUTION DATE:** April 6, 2018

For an electronic copy of these minutes and more information about the  
Graduate Council, please visit our website at:  
[http://www.ou.edu/content/gradweb/faculty\\_resources/graduate\\_council.html](http://www.ou.edu/content/gradweb/faculty_resources/graduate_council.html)