

## **Minutes of the Graduate Council**

**Date of Meeting: January 15, 2020**

The January 15, 2020, meeting of the Graduate Council was called to order at 1:19 p.m. in the Multipurpose Classroom and Laboratory Building (MCL), Room 505, by Dr. Gretchen Busl, Chair of the Graduate Council, with videoconferencing to IHSD 8720 and IHSB 5305.

### **Attendance:**

- **Members:** Erika Armstrong, Kevin Becker, Sneha Bharadwaj, Ken Boonme (substitute for Pushkala Raman), Wayne Brewer, Lee Brown, Gretchen Busl, Pei-Fen Chang, Paula Clutter, Patricia Flint, Jordan Fuchs, Hui-Ting Goh, Barbara Gray, Dundee Lackey, Hyuk-Jin Lee, Mindy Menn, Joel Muro, Mindy Patterson, Dr. Claire L. Sahlin (ex-officio), Suzanne Sears, Sharla Snider, Daniel Stefanelli, Laura Trujillo-Jenks, Ann Wheeler, Alisa Woods, Xu Wen (substitute for Ellina Grigorieva), Philip Yang, and Margaret Young
- **Guests:** Robert Lothringer, Celia Lo, Diane Myers, Sully Saucedo, and Donna Scott Tilley

### **I. Amendment to the Agenda**

The agenda was amended to allow Dr. Diane Myers to present the proposal for a new Ph.D. in Education, Leadership, and Organization on behalf of the Department of Teacher Education.

### **II. Minutes Approved**

The meeting minutes for November 20, 2019, were approved.

### **III. Announcements and Report from Dr. Claire Sahlin**

#### **A. Recruitment and Enrollment**

- Report on Spring 2020 Enrollment:
  - Day 3 report: The total enrollment in the university is 14,778, which is an increase of 163 students (1.1% over Day 3 in Spring 2019), and total SCH production is showing an increase of 1.0%.
  - Graduate student enrollment is flat overall. Graduate student enrollment for Day 3 of the semester is 5,050, which is up by 8 students compared to Day 3 in Spring 2019. Master's enrollment is showing an increase of 67 students, and, so far, doctoral enrollment is showing a decline in headcount of 59 students.
- We need to keep a strong focus on graduate student enrollment (and overall enrollment in the university).
- Ms. Nikki Young and Ms. Korie Hawkins in Admissions remain available to assist you with recruiting prospective graduate students, and programs are welcome to reach out to Korie Hawkins with questions or for assistance.
- The Graduate School is also happy and willing to assist you with recruitment of your students by providing funds, feedback, and ideas. Contact Claire Sahlin to apply for recruitment funds.

- Please review your websites and work with the university’s digital content specialists to provide information about the cost of attendance, time to completion, and career prospects for your graduate degrees.
- We ask that you share with Admissions information about prospective students who contact your programs directly. Please send names and contact information for your prospects with Heather Stubblefield ([HStubblefield1@twu.edu](mailto:HStubblefield1@twu.edu)), who can enter this information into the electronic communication system.

B. Upcoming Events

- **Three-Minute Thesis Competition:** January 30, 2020, at 1:30 p.m. in ACT 301 in Denton, with video broadcasts to 8720 in Dallas and 7305 in Houston. All are welcome to view the presentations from the audience.
- **Graduate Student Research Symposium for the Federation of North Texas Area Universities: April 3 on the TWU campus, Hubbard Hall.** There will be student poster presentations and faculty judging as well as an awards luncheon featuring a keynote speaker, who will be Dr. Carolyn Kapinus this year. Please encourage your students to present a poster, and please consider becoming a judge. There are cash prizes for first, second, and third places.
- **Graduate Student Appreciation Week: April 13-17.** We’d love for departments to recognize their own graduate students in special ways, perhaps with treats, gift bags, professional development activities, or social events. The Graduate School will host a time for graduate students to stop by the office to be recognized with swag and refreshments. If you have ideas for other activities that the Graduate School could do to support students during this week or at other times, please send ideas to Claire Sahlin.
- **Annual Pioneer Spirit Awards banquet, sponsored by the TWU Graduate Student Council:** Friday, April 17, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- **Additional panel presentations and workshops** to enhance graduate student experiences will take place throughout the semester and will be announced.

IV. **Report from Dr. Ruth Johnson**

There was no report.

V. **Summary Reports from Standing Committees**

A. **Executive Committee – Dr. Gretchen Busl**

Two ad hoc committees (one on compensation for graduate students and the other to review policies on graduate education) continue to meet.

B. **Research Committee – Dr. Sneha Bharadwaj**

Expect to receive emails to nominate graduate students for the Chancellor’s Student Research Scholars Award and the Graduate Council Award for Exceptional, Original Scholarship.

**C. Academic Standards Committee – Dr. Ann Wheeler**

The committee was given the task of examining criteria for full and associate graduate faculty membership, and Dr. Ruth Johnson will work with the committee to lead the review of the criteria.

**D. Membership Committee – Dr. Kevin Becker**

- No report

**VI. Old Business**

There was no old business to report or discuss.

**VII. New Business**

**A. Membership Committee – Dr. Kevin Becker**

The Membership Committee’s recommendations for Full and Associate Graduate Faculty Status were voted on and approved, as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Component</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Jessica Gullion	Sociology	Full
Brenda Moore	Nursing	Associate
Jodi Thomas	Physical Therapy	Associate
Priya Thomas	Dance	Full

**B. Academic Programs Committee – Dr. Laura Trujillo-Jenks**

New and revised graduate program proposals were reviewed and approved by the Academic Committee, which recommended them to the Graduate Council. The Graduate Council voted on each of the proposals listed below and approved each of them, pending approval of the Distance Education Advisory Committee (DEAC) where applicable.

1. Proposal for a new Ph.D. program in Education, Leadership, and Organization (needs DEAC approval).
2. Request to offer the M.Ed. in Teaching, Learning, and Curriculum as an online program (needs DEAC approval). This proposal was presented by Dr. Laura Trujillo-Jenks.
3. Proposal for a new post-baccalaureate Speech-Language Pathology Certificate in Deaf and Hard of Hearing (needs DEAC approval). This proposal was presented by Dr. Erika Armstrong.
4. Proposal to revise the degree plan for the non-thesis option in the M.A. in Sociology and the M.A. in Sociology with a concentration in Criminology by reducing the number of credit hours from a minimum of 36 to a minimum of 30. This proposal was presented by Dr. Celia Lo.

5. Request to offer the M.A. in Sociology and the M.A. in Sociology with a concentration in Criminology as an online program (needs DEAC approval). This proposal was presented by Dr. Celia Lo.

**C. Academic Standards Committee – Dr. Ann Wheeler**

Dr. Ann Wheeler presented a recommendation to change the policy of a minimum of 90 semester credit hours for doctoral programs, as indicated below.

- **Current Policy in the Graduate Catalog:** Specific requirements are determined by the student’s advisory committee, department chair, and academic dean. In general, however, work leading to the doctorate requires the completion of a minimum of ninety graduate-level semester credit hours beyond the baccalaureate degree. In some cases a student may need to complete more than ninety semester credit hours in order to meet individual requirements determined by the advisory committee. The completion of a number of semester credit hours, however, is not in itself sufficient; the nature and quality of work are the major considerations.
- **Proposed Policy for Doctoral Programs:** The candidate must earn a minimum of 42 hours of graduate credit beyond the master’s degree or 72 hours beyond the bachelor’s degree. The quantity and the content of course work to be completed by each candidate is arranged individually by the advisory committee, subject to the approval of the academic component leader and the Graduate School. In some cases a student may need to complete additional semester credit hours in order to meet individual requirements determined by the advisory committee.

This proposal was discussed and will be placed on the agenda for a vote of the Graduate Council at the next meeting on February 19, 2020.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT: 2:10 p.m.**

**The next Graduate Council meeting is February 19, 2020, in MCL 501, IHSB 5305, and IHSD 8720.**