

Minutes of the Graduate Council
Date of Meeting: February 24, 2021

The February 24, 2021 meeting of the Graduate Council was called to order at 1:15 p.m. via Zoom by Dr. Gretchen Busl, Chair of the Graduate Council.

Attendance:

- **Members:** Erika Armstrong, Kevin Becker, Sneha Bharadwaj, Brandon Bush, Wayne Brewer, Lee Brown, Gretchen Busl, Paula Clutter, Rita DelloStritto, Brian Fehler, Jordan Fuchs, Hui-Tin Goh, Holly Hansen-Thomas, Ruth Johnson, Rebecca Keele, Randa Keeley, Dundee Lackey, Hyuk-Jin Lee, Jenna Lee, Barbara McAlister, Mindy Menn, Sandra Murdock, Joel Muro, Mindy Patterson, Pushkala Raman, Kris Reed (on behalf of Suzanne Sellers), Theresa Smith, Sharla Snider, Laura Trujillo-Jenks, Wesley Tucker, Ann Wheeler, Alisa Woods, Philip Yang, Margaret Young
- **Guests:** Gina Anderson, Brandon Bush, Barbara Lerner, Sully Saucedo, Gray Scott, Terry Senne, Erin Wimberly

MINUTES APPROVED:

- The meeting minutes for January 20, 2021 were approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Report from Dr. Holly Hansen-Thomas:

Dr. Hansen-Thomas made the following announcements:

- Outcome report on the February 8th visit by Dr. Julie Posselt, guest speaker at the Equity based Holistic Review, was a success, and she provided lots of useful information. Please submit your suggestions for other types of events that you would like to see in the future.
- The Graduate Program Showcase is this Saturday (January 27, 2021), and it is being held virtually.
- Graduate Council award for Exceptional, Original Scholarship: Due to last week's event with the weather, the deadline date has been extended to March 1, 2021.
- Federation of North Texas Universities Symposium: The event scheduled for April 9, 2021, now has an extended deadline date for student presentations to March 12, 2021. The event will take place virtually and is being considered as an event that will be held virtually going forward. A few more judges are needed for this event, and information can be found in the email.
- TWU's Creative Arts and Research Symposium is being held April 13-14.
- An upcoming event related to research, scholarship and graduate students entitled *Writing a Book Proposal and Negotiating a Book Contract* will be hosted by our colleagues Dr. Jessica Gullion (Associate Dean of Research, College of Arts and Sciences) and Amanda Zerangue (Library) this Friday, February 26 at 1pm virtually. The CRDA department will help publicize this event.
- The University received a grant through the Center for Faculty Excellence. Dr. Jörg Waltje was successful in obtaining a grant that allows everyone to participate in a new

faculty diversity organization NCFDD. Please participate; there is no sign up fee, and there will be some useful resources.

- The first Graduate Council Diversity committee was held. Attendees included Drs. Randa Keeley, Sneha Bharadwaj, and Margaret Young. Preliminary conversations were conducted. We believe that we will call Dr. Jörg Waltje and his organization to see how that might play a role in what we can do. Sneha had some really good ideas about what we need to do or should do as a committee in graduate education in order to increase diversity in all of our programs, so we will get more information on that as the committee's work carries on.
- A reminder that when we are closing programs, please be sure to loop in all of the relevant people, which includes your chairs and deans, as well as Academic Assessment. Sometimes, programs get closed, and not everybody is informed, so please make sure we're doing the appropriate teach out and following the right path for that.
- Scholarships: Scholarships for graduate students have been an issue. There is now a new staff member who is very knowledgeable, and there is also now a committee that will make sure that they are well trained for both undergraduate and graduate level. Departments will be contacted to find out what their needs are with their particular programs.
- Yesterday, the state's senate finance committee met in Austin, and the Chancellor did a good job advocating for faculty, talking about how hard everybody's worked during a very challenging past year. You can see it online.
- Dissertation and thesis: Due to the weather event from last week and campus/labs being closed, if students need a few more days to turn them in, please have their advisors contact the Dean of the Graduate School. There will be a process.

Report from Dr. Ruth Johnson:

- No Report

SUMMARY REPORTS FROM 2020-21 STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Executive Committee – Dr. Gretchen Busl

- Remember that we only have two more meetings left this semester and if there are any issues coming out of your voting units that you would like to come up for conversation this year, contact either myself or Dr. Hansen-Thomas. It might need to be referred to one of our standing committees before it can come out to the council, or it may need to have a discussion one month before it can be voted on the following month.
- There is an ad hoc committee looking at graduate student compensation. This is our only standing ad hoc committee at the moment.

Research Committee – Dr. Sneha Bharadwaj

- Graduate Council Award for Exceptional, Original Scholarship: deadline extended to March 1.
- Chancellor's Student Research Scholars: deadline extended to February 25, which is tomorrow.

- Abstracts for the symposium are also due tomorrow (Feb. 25). Please encourage your students to submit their abstracts, as well as applications, for scholarships. There are some updates on the symposium website.

Academic Standards Committee – Dr. Ann Wheeler

- We are continuing to look at policies for revisions.

Academic Programs Committee – Dr. Laura Trujillo-Jenks

- No Report

Membership Committee - Dr. Kevin Becker

- No Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- None

NEW BUSINESS:

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

- Members voted on and approved two full status applications.

| Name | Component | Recommendation |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Sandra Cesario | Nursing | Full |
| Katherine Rose | Human Development, Family Studies, and Counseling | Full |

- There was a reminder that we are at the end of the year and if you have people in your component that need to renew their membership or apply for new membership, please remind them of the deadlines for that since we are coming up on our last couple of meetings.

B. Academic Standards Committee, **Dr. Ann Wheeler**

- Policies for review—The *Writing Requirement for All Graduate Degrees* and *Course Work Option for Master's Students* were tabled until the March meeting. Members voted on and approved the *Chairing Graduate Student Committees* policy with no change in policy wording. The *Final Examination in Master's Degree Programs* policy was discussed. There was some discussion with the COB about requiring two faculty members to serve on committees. Ultimately, the policy was sent back down to the Academic Standards Committee for further review. The *Research Tools* policy was revised and approved with the removal of

the 90 hour rule. The *Transfer Credit and Time Limits* policy was voted on and approved with the modification of the *10 consecutive calendar years* to *8 consecutive calendar years* for doctoral degree completion.

- iTeach proposal--Dr. Gina Anderson presented the iTeach proposal. There was discussion about its impact to TWU and credit for prior learning at the graduate level. Dr. Gretchen Busl asked faculty to send any comments to Dr. Ann Wheeler and the Academic Standards Committee for further review.

ADJOURNMENT: 2:33 p.m.