

GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 3, 2016, 1:21-2:49 P.M.  
Sage Hall 2210

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**Present:** Pete Brown, Eric Brunsell, Mary Kate Friess, Karen Gibson, Marci Hoffman, Phan Hong, Eric Kuennen, Erik Krohn, Reggie Parson, Christine Roth, Alan Saginak, Bob Stelzer, Nathan Stuart, Ashley Thompson, Cathy Toll, Mary Weeden, Judy Westphal

**Excused:** Elizabeth Alderton, John Beam, Jamie Ceman, Denise Clark, Steve Dunn, Dale Feinauer, Anna Filipova, Fredi Giesler, Toni House, Deb Matulle, Brandon Miller, Steve Steinert, Lori Worm, Greg Wypiszynski, Ling Zhang

**Guests:** Chancellor Leavitt

The meeting was called to order at 1:21 p.m. by Phan Hong who welcomed Chancellor Leavitt. Graduate Council members introduced themselves.

- A. Strategic Plan: Chancellor Leavitt shared the university's strategic plan, and identified areas where graduate education was included. Graduate education plays a leading role in the research-enhanced university. He confirmed that a 1.0 FTE graduate dean position has been approved on Provost's Earns recommendation, with a July 1 start date. A national search with diverse candidates is needed. The graduate dean will be responsible for graduate enrollment, but unlike the academic deans, the graduate dean will not generate income from enrollment. Instead, Graduate Studies will depend on funding from the colleges.

Research-enhanced University: Tenured faculty should be allowed more flexibility in how they spend their time; UW Oshkosh is not a teaching institution, we are a teaching, research, and service institution, and faculty should be allowed autonomy in how much time is allocated to each for merit reviews. Graduate students create significantly larger workloads for faculty. Departments will have more authority to determine faculty loads based on undergraduate versus graduate students. Some Graduate Council members view the research-enhanced university as a building block to R-2 status.

Budget Model: Chancellor provided an overview of the new budget model, and stated that it will incentivize areas to become more entrepreneurial. System is asking for a 1-2% tuition increase from state legislature. Academic deans will have the opportunity to understand how many students "pays" for one faculty position, and can plan accordingly. Not all graduate programs need to grow, so more management at the chair and dean levels will determine how to right-size the programs. Updating campus-wide shared governance models, creating client-agency relationships, and establishing checks and balances all need to be strategically developed prior to centralizing resources and to support a culture of leadership and accountability. Faculty are concerned that more administrative positions are being added at their expense. Chancellor stated that the university is down 73 FTE; -9 faculty, +2 instructional academic staff, and -66 non-teaching professional academic staff and university staff positions. University staff have the highest decline, including 12 who opted to switch to academic staff. GA FTE has declined every year for ten years, and we are losing great students due to funding. This will be an area for the graduate dean to address. Ideas include discounted residence halls that are owned by the university (excludes Horizon), or provide temporary housing while students look for an apartment.

The Graduate Council thanked Chancellor Leavitt for his positive attitude toward graduate programs and for attending today's meeting.

- B. Karen Gibson announced that HLC approved the new Ed.D. for the Superintendentcy, adding a second doctoral program to the university.

- C. Motion to approve the consent reports/Second: Judy Westphal/Eric Brunsell. Approved (14-0-1).
- D. Motion to approve the February 4, 2016 minutes as written/Second: Nathan Stuart/Pete Brown. Approved (15-0-0).
- E. Graduate Dean Position Description: The newest version was not posted prior to today's meeting, so Phan Hong requested that everyone send edits to her within the next week. The position description is needed for Provost Earns to establish a Search & Screen committee.
- F. The remaining discussion items were shelved, and Phan Hong announced that the Graduate Council will meet on March 10. Coordinators are encouraged to review the graduate dean position description and how it could benefit or impact their program.
- G. Mary Weeden announced that it is Social Work month, and those who donate \$25 or more to the Social Work Fund will receive a Social Work Journal.

Motion to adjourn at 2:49 P.M. Marci Hoffman, Recorder.

Copies to: Graduate Council, Provost Lane Earns, Deans, OSA President, Office of Graduate Studies Staff