# Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

CHAIRED BY: David Kieda TIME: 3:00 pm

DATE: October 26, 2015 PLACE: Park Building 300

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Dave Kieda, Lien Shen, Cedric Feschotte, Mary Jane Taylor, Julie Wambaugh, Linda St Clair, Richard Paine, Audrey Thompson, Isabel Dulfano, Laura Kessler, Mingnan Chen, Bryan Trump, Yuanyuan Xie, Valeria Molinero

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Donna White, Ed Barbanell

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Ginny Pepper, Charles Hansen

FINAL AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions

David Kieda of the Graduate School welcomed the Graduate Council and introduced Danny Nelson, new Administrative Assistant of the Graduate School Dean’s Office.

**2. Program Review: Human Genetics**

Vanessa Stevens of the Department of Pharmacotherapy presented the program review for the Department of Human Genetics.

Vote: Table the discussion until amendments to the commendations and recommendations can be made; approved unanimously. Future vote will be made by email.

Abstained:

Comments: The Council felt that many of the commendations and recommendations identified by the reviewers were repetitive or redundant, and suggested the reviewers combine recommendation/commendation points that repeated information or aligned organizationally.

Suggestion was given to remove those commendations/recommendations whose scope lay outside of the department’s ability to affect (including Bridge funding).

A question was raised regarding the appropriateness of including in the recommendations the movement of preliminary exams to earlier in the student cycle; suggestions were made to adjust or remove this point.

**3. Proposal: New MS and Ph.D.in Nutrition and Integrative Physiology with Emphases**

Julie Metos of the Department of Nutrition and David Perrin, Dean of the College of Health, presented a proposal for new degree programs in Nutrition and Integrative Physiology, including emphases in same. The questions raised by the Council were each addressed by Julie Metos or David Perrin.

Vote: Initial vote to combine approval for MS degree and Ph.D. degree, approved unanimously; Motion to accept the new programs, approved unanimously

Abstained:

Comments: The new degree programs are a result of the realignment of the College of Health. The degree programs will combine Nutrition and Physiology faculty and resources to provide a name and degree course to cover an existing gap for students who would elect to pursue graduate studies in Nutrition and Integrative Physiology but have no degree for which to apply. Program as proposed is overwhelmingly supported by Nutrition/Physiology faculty.

The Council requested information regarding current graduate student integration into the new program: Nutrition students will continue in their present program, which will eventually be closed in favor of the updated program. Physiology programs will be phased out more gradually. Students may elect to keep their original program or switch to the new program; degree requirements and student accomplishments will maintain through the name change.

The Council requested information regarding student funding: students will be funded by mentor colleague. Nutrition is part of the Pillar system in the current College of Health, and department heads are confident that additional funding will be available through that system.

**4. Program Review: Communications**

Laura Kessler of the College of Law reviewed the Communications Department.

Vote: Approve with amendments, approved unanimously

Abstained:

Comments: Concerns were raised that program commendations on department diversity would not encourage further growth in this area, especially in terms of racial diversity; a recommendation for increasing diversity in student body was suggested.

A concern was raised that no language regarding diversity in the curricula was mentioned; the Council resolved to monitor this aspect but not include it in the recommendations.

The Council requested a recommendation be made to update and keep current the Graduate Student Handbook to reflect curricular updates and graduate school policies.

**5. Program Review: Biomedical Informatics**

Bryan Trump of the School of Dentistry presented a program review of the Department of Biomedical Informatics.

Vote: Approve with amendments, unanimously approved

Abstained:

Comments: Discussion was held regarding the level of external funding for department faculty salaries. Wording changes were proposed in the recommendations to encourage the department to develop a strategy for bringing this closer to peer institutions to increase success of faculty recruitment and retention.

Wording changes were also proposed regarding a recommendation that the department examine its relationship with appointing and retaining visiting faculty from IHC.

**6. Proposal: Center for Applied Research on Refugee Resettlement and Integration**

Caren Frost of the College of Social Work presented a proposal to establish the Center for Applied Research on Refugee Resettlement and Integration. The questions raised by the Council were each addressed by Caren Frost.

Vote: Table vote until additional information is provided, approved unanimously

Abstained:

Comments: The Center will not provide curriculum, though it will work with faculty and departments to make curricula open to interested parties.

The Council requested a clearer budget structure, detailing the operating costs of the Center and Center Staff for present and future needs.

The Council also required documented authorization from Sr. Vice President Ruth Watkins by way of signature or authorized email.

**7. Discussion of UOnline Program Requirements**

David Kieda of the Graduate School presented the program requirement apparatus for the UOnline programs. Discussion was held regarding the current system of updating and managing new content in the UOnline courses. The current team investigating the maintenance and adaptation of UOnline courses has proposed to present to the Graduate Council prior to policy decisions regarding the review cycle of the UOnline programs. Council resolved to wait to meet with UOnline team until policy decisions have been made and the Council’s role in the process is further clarified.

**8. FYI: Accreditation Meeting**

David Kieda of the Graduate School reminded the Council that faculty are encouraged to attend the NWCCCU meeting Wednesday, October 27th, 2015 from 3:00 – 3:45 pm.

Time of Adjournment 5:00pm.

The next Council meeting will be 30 November 2015 at 3:00pm in the Winder Board Room, Park 300.