



January 28, 2016

7:30 - 9:00 AM 300 Park, Winder Boardroom

or

2:00 - 3:30 PM 300 Park, Winder Boardroom

## Minutes

1. Welcome: Dean Dave Kieda
2. Information announcements—Dave Kieda:
  - a. Graduate student insurance rates will be reduced next year by about 2.5%. Directors are advised that in the 2016-17 academic year, graduate student insurance rates will fall below their current rates, even though the number of benefits provided to students will be increasing. Additional health resource options will be included; among them are a 24-hour hotline to put students in touch with a medical professional who can diagnose and even prescribe medications over the phone.
  - b. Ad hoc Graduate School committees. The Graduate School, under the charge of SVPAA Ruth Watkins, has formed three committees to analyze current resources for graduate students/postdocs at the U. These committees would appreciate any feedback from faculty and staff to help them understand the challenges and possibilities of graduate student support on campus. The committees are as follows.
    - i. Postdoctoral Committee (chair, Jennifer Mabey): The committee's goal is to recommend ways to enhance the postdoctoral experience. The committee is working on defining the postdoctoral role/job code, and working to draft universal policies for hiring and dismissal of postdocs.
    - ii. Writing Committee (chair, Donna White): The committee's goal is to examine the current resources available to graduate students as it pertains to writing, and to recommend ways to increase student writing support. The committee would like to reduce the length of time spent by the Thesis Office in editing, and look for alternatives to the Thesis Office providing quality control of theses.
    - iii. Graduate Student Support Committee (chair, Dave Kieda): The committee's goal is to examine current support for students and make recommendations to increase support or use current support more efficiently.
3. Fulbright applications—Jolyn Schleiffarth and Howard Lehman. Directors should note that there are a number of workshops available for the development of Fulbright applications this Spring. The Fulbright is an excellent opportunity for graduate students as well as undergraduates, and provides networking opportunities and lab experience opportunities, among other things.

4. UTA and GRF committees. The Fellowships and Benefits Office is establishing committees to judge applications for the University Teaching Associates and Graduate Research Fellowships. All faculty are encouraged to volunteer for these committees. If you would like to volunteer or nominate a colleague, please contact Jolyn Schleiffarth at [jolyn.s@utah.edu](mailto:jolyn.s@utah.edu).
5. Graduate Diversity Office—Araceli Frias: The former diversity mini-grant structure has been reworked, and the award is now called the “Graduate Diversity Grant.” The change to the grant is meant to be more adaptable to student needs, and its focus has shifted to professional development. The deadlines for University Visit Program and Graduate Preparation Institute are in February, so directors are encouraged to remind their colleagues and faculty to recommend these programs to incoming students soon.
6. Department Handbooks—Dave Kieda: The Graduate School has received many examples of departmental family leave and dismissal policies from directors, but still need more to have them from each department/college. Examples of policy language can be found at <https://gradschool.utah.edu/directors-of-graduate-studies/resources/>.
7. Graduate School Associate Dean position available—Dave Kieda: The Graduate School is looking to hire a faculty member as an Associate Dean. Interested parties can apply at <http://utah.peopleadmin.com/postings/48997>. Questions or concerns can be sent to Dave Kieda at [dave.kieda@utah.edu](mailto:dave.kieda@utah.edu) or extension 1-6926.
8. Newsletter – Donna White: The Spring edition of the Graduate School newsletter, *Gradnews*, is now online and can be viewed at <https://gradschool.utah.edu/gradnews/>.
9. Other Business
  - a. The *GradAttack* podcast needs a steady stream of graduate students of superior quality to interview. If you or your colleagues know of a graduate student whose research or life story is interesting or unique, please let podcast director Patrick Hadley know. [Patrick.hadley@gradschool.utah.edu](mailto:Patrick.hadley@gradschool.utah.edu)

## Announcements

1. DoGS meeting minutes along with any supplemental materials will be posted by the Monday following the meeting. <http://gradschool.utah.edu/dogs-meeting-minutes/>.
2. Please update DoGS contact information. There is a link to a form that allows for edits at the top of the page. <http://gradschool.utah.edu/directors-of-graduate-studies/dogs-contacts-by-department/>.