

## Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

**CHAired BY:** Katharine Ullman

**TIME:** 3:00 pm

**DATE:** September 4, 2018

**PLACE:** Winder Boardroom

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** James Agutter, Douglas Christensen, Jonah Schupbach, Melissa Bernstein, Tallie Casucci, Anthea Letsou, Jeffrey Moore, Christopher Reilly, Wade Cole, Joanna Bettmann Schaefer, Rebecca Hardenbrook

**EX OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ann Darling, David Kieda, Katharine Ullman

**EXCUSED MEMBERS:** Arul Mishra, Robert Zheng, Satu Hummasti, Robert Kraemer, Rena D'Souza, Kristin Cloyes, David Blair, Devon Cantwell, Whitney Louder

### AGENDA

**1. Welcome**

Katharine Ullman of the Graduate School welcomed the Graduate Council.

**2. Proposal: New Division of Family Planning in Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology**

David Turok of Obstetrics & Gynecology presented the New Division of Family Planning in Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology proposal to the Council. All questions of the Council were answered by Professor Turok.

Vote: approve

Abstained: Satu Hummasti (via email)

Comments: Questions were raised as to why the move to a division was necessary, and proposers responded that the move to division is common across US institutions to raise internal and external prestige and recognition of this specialized focus within obstetrics. The Council had some concerns that the faculty vote was in 2014. Proposers responded that the proposal has been delayed bureaucratically and that faculty are very anxious for it to be finalized. Accreditation was briefly discussed: accreditation will still be done through the department and will not become the division's responsibility. As the Council was below quorum for this meeting, a vote on this proposal was finalized over email.

**3. Proposal: MS in Medical Studies**

Janet Lindsley of Biochemistry presented the MS in Medical Studies proposal to the Council. All questions of the Council were answered by Professor Lindsley.

Vote: approve

Abstained: Satu Hummasti (via email)

Comments: As the Council was below quorum for this meeting, a vote on this proposal was finalized over email.

**4. Review: Environmental Humanities**

Christopher Reilly of Pharmacy presented the Environmental Humanities Program Review to the Council. All questions of the Council were answered by Professor Reilly.

Vote: approve with amendments

Abstained: Satu Hummasti (via email)  
Comments: The Council voted provisionally to approve, contingent on adding a note in the recommendations regarding strategic vision for the future and switching to sustainable funding and advising models. As the Council was below quorum for this meeting, a vote on this proposal was finalized over email.

**5. Proposal: Utah Center for Data Science**

Suresh Vekatasubramanian and Ross Whitaker of the School of Computing presented the Utah Center for Data Science proposal to the Council. All questions of the Council were answered by Professors Vekatasubramanian and Whitaker.

Vote: approve with amendments  
Abstained: Satu Hummasti (via email)  
Comments: The Council voted provisionally to approve, contingent on the proposers adding to the proposal a signed letter from a current or former SVPAA, documentation that it has been vetted by the home department college council, and language about how faculty can become affiliated with the Center. As the Council was below quorum for this meeting, a vote on this proposal was finalized over email.

**6. Proposal: Discontinue Environmental Engineering Program**

Bonnie Ogden of Civil & Environmental Engineering Department presented the Discontinue Environmental Engineering Program proposal to the Council. All questions of the Council were answered by Ms. Ogden.

Vote: approve  
Abstained: Satu Hummasti (via email)  
Comments: The proposers were advised to informally ensure any original proponents still at the University are notified of the discontinuance before the proposal is presented to the Senate. As the Council was below quorum for this meeting, a vote on this proposal was finalized over email.

**7. Discussion: PharmD Final Report**

Jeffrey Moore of Mines & Earth Sciences presented the discussion of PharmD's annual review cycle to the Council. All questions of the Council were answered by Professor Moore. A vote was called to approve the report provided by the Council committee.

Vote: approve with amendments  
Abstained: Satu Hummasti (via email); Christopher Reilly  
Comments: The Council recommended holding PharmD to the Graduate School Program Review schedule because it serves a purpose which is distinct from program accreditation. Council members raised concerns about the seven-year process when there exist a few exceptions, and proposed the Graduate Council review the possibility of beginning a Program Review cycle for those exempted programs. The Council approved the Final Report with revisions to emphasize that Program Reviews are the way that the Senate assesses learning outcomes and that they provide additional value to the department bringing in external reviewers from aspirational peer programs.

**8. Discussion: Departmental Restrictions on Post-Defense Dissertation Revision Time**

Dean David Kieda discussed Social Work's desire to set up a restriction on its students for manuscript revisions following a defense. The Council questioned whether students

under such restrictions might be affected by Thesis Office slowdown. A workable solution would likely involve a fixed time for the student without counting time the dissertation is in the Thesis Office clearance process. The Council resolved to keep the question in mind. No vote was taken.

Time of Adjournment 5:00pm.

Next Graduate Council meeting will be held Monday, September 24, 2018.