



## GRADUATE COUNCIL

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### Minutes of Meeting Held February 25, 2019

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<i>Present:</i>	Dean Sridhar, Professors Pourdavood, Richter, Kothapalli, Kosteas, Ekelman, Hatch, Krebs, Kumar, Student Representative Rene Kizys
<i>Absent/Excused:</i>	Professors Deng, Arndt, Hansman, Falk, Adluri, Tayyara, Matcham, Quinn, Shukla, Library Representative Diane Kolosionek, Registrar Kevin Neal, Associate Dean Donna Schultheiss
<i>Guests:</i>	Professors Don Allensworth-Davies (Public Health), Cynthia Hovland (Social Work), Beth Domholdt (Health Sciences)

Because of the absence of a quorum, there was discussion as to whether members should wait or begin items on the Agenda. A suggestion was made to start with discussion, non-voting items. Dr. Sridhar mentioned that there were a couple faculty members waiting to present their proposals and he wanted to be respectful of their time. Agenda items were discussed slightly out of order and one of the waiting presenters was brought in. During his presentation, a quorum was reached and items voted on subsequently.

**1. Approve Agenda** – The Agenda was **approved** as presented.

**2. Approve minutes** – December 10, 2018 and January 31, 2019

- ❖ **A motion was made, seconded and the December minutes were approved as written.**
- ❖ Dr. Sridhar provided a summary of the items on the January 31<sup>st</sup> Council Agenda. Since the meeting was on a day the University was closed for bad weather, email votes were held. He quickly reviewed the Agenda items and the results.
- ❖ **A motion was made, seconded and the January “minutes” were approved as written**

**3. New Business**

- ❖ Curriculum proposals
  - i. Master’s in Public Health, MPH
    - The program will be going to an online format in Fall 2019. Changes to the admission criteria are being proposed.
      - a. For applicants with a GPA of 3.0 or higher, the GRE will be waived
        - i. The GRE will still be required for international students
        - ii. As an online program, student visas will not be issued at the colleges
      - b. Reducing the number of letters of recommendation *from* three *to* two
      - c. The accrediting body approves these changes.
      - d. **A motion was made to approve the revisions to the Public Health program, which was seconded and passed unanimously.**
  - ii. Social Work, MSW
    - The MSW program is moving to an online format. The proposal is currently moving through the University process. The program is working in cooperation with the E-Learning office to develop their current courses online, hoping for a ‘soft launch’ of them in the Fall. The department is working to submit a substantive change report to their accrediting body in the summer/fall. The expectation is that the program will be fully online in Fall 2020. The current plan is to accept only Ohio students. Those outside a 60-mile radius will need to provide their own field placements/supervisors.

- There are no substantive changes to the program, other than moving to the online format. The Chancellor's Council on Graduate Study (CCGS) will also need to be notified.
  - Discussion subjects included clarification of the field placements for students outside the 60-mile radius, faculty needs for courses, and keeping student professionalism.
  - A few Council members expressed concerns over the frustrating trend of programs moving to online formats. They understand the trend and that we might be losing students because we do not have some online offerings, but still find it disconcerting.
  - **A motion was made to approve the move to an online format for the Social Work program, which was seconded and passed unanimously**
- iii. M.A. in Economics
- The program is 1) proposing an overhaul of its courses, moving them *from* four credits *to* three, 2) adding a thesis option, and 3) reducing the total number of credits to thirty (more competitive). Admission to the program has been suspended while these changes are in process.
  - **A motion was made to approve the revisions to the M.A. in Economics program, which was seconded and passed unanimously**
- iv. List of courses in Curriculog
- The list of courses was reviewed in the Graduate College with no issues.
  - **A motion was made to approve the courses presented in Curriculog, which was seconded and passed unanimously.**
- v. Urban Health, new certificate
- vi. M.S. in Health Sciences, new track Urban Health
- Dr. Domholdt explained that they have two groups of students coming from the Bachelor's degree in the Urban Health/NEOMED partnership, 1) those working post-bac on another Bachelor's degree and 2) those well equipped to extend their knowledge by moving on to a graduate degree. The department revised the curriculum, including new graduate Urban Health courses to provide graduate options for the second set.
  - The students can work towards a graduate certificate in Urban Health or the M.S. in Health Sciences, Urban Health track, as possible preparation for application to medical school. Their students have expressed interest in this route rather than getting a second bachelor's degree.
  - Discussion topics included: job prospects for the graduate Health Sciences degree, how the track "Urban" fits into the degree, and the Higher Learning Commission's requirement concerning no more than half of courses in the degree being offered as undergraduate courses also.
  - **A motion was made to approve the new graduate certificate in Urban Health, which was seconded and passed unanimously.**
  - **A motion was made to approve the new track in Urban Health, which was seconded and passed unanimously**
- vii. Physical Therapy, DPT
- Dr. Domholdt also attempted to explain the DPT revisions. The revisions include a curricular part and an admissions part. For the curricular piece, most of the students in the program are CSU students having come through the undergraduate program. At the undergraduate level the CSU students take undergraduate versions of three courses: Neuroscience, Pathology, and Gross Anatomy. Most all other programs have these courses at the graduate level. Without these in our graduate program, other students would have to spend a semester taking the three courses first. Thus, the courses were incorporated into the graduate DPT program. CSU students will receive a waiver for these courses and take a "bridge" course instead.

- In the admissions revision the GPA is being raised *from* 3.0 *to* 3.2. With the volume of applications no one at a 3.0 has been admitted in many years so it is felt to be ‘false advertising.’
- Discussion topics included the ratio of weighing admission criteria and students’ concerns with their grades affecting a GPA.
- A Council member has concerns with the three courses CSU students take at the undergrad level counting in their graduate degree. It was decided that more information is needed. The DPT Program Director will be asked to provide written clarification of what courses are waived and for which students. After that we will ask for an email vote. If Council members are still not comfortable with an email vote, we will ask the proposal to return for review at the next meeting in March.

#### **4. Graduate Council Representation & Standing Committees – Available reports**

- a. Faculty Senate
  - There was some discussion of the Shorelight proposal with faculty
- b. University Admissions & Standards – no report
- c. University Curriculum Committee – no report
- d. Graduate Faculty Review Committee – no report
- e. Petitions Committee
  - Ten petitions were handled in January
  - There will be no meeting in February
- f. Grade Dispute Committee
  - The grade dispute is now with the University Admissions & Standards Committee to review for due process
- g. Program Review Committee – no report
- h. University Research Council – no report
- i. Graduate Student Awards Committee
  - The 3-MT competition just completed. The winner will be participating in the Midwest Association of Graduate Schools Conference competition later in March.

#### **5. Informational/Discussion**

- ❖ Dr. Sridhar provided information about two partnerships the University is entering into with two outside companies for student recruitment.
  - i. Beacon Education is a company that operates in China and helps universities deliver online programs to students in China. CSU has signed an agreement with Beacon for the MBA, the general M.Ed. and the M.Ed. in Administrative Leadership programs to be offered to students in China. Students will stay in China and receive a degree from Cleveland State.
    - Members’ discussion topics included: faculty work load, tuition for the Chinese students, and cultural differences in cheating/plagiarism issues.
  - ii. The University is finishing negotiations with another company that will partner with CSU to bring international students to attend CSU. All undergraduate programs and specific graduate programs will be involved.
- ❖ The Graduate Council election process has begun. Please encourage others to volunteer their services.
- ❖ After confirmation of a room, the Graduate Faculty meeting will most likely be April 11.

#### **6. Next Meeting:** March 26 @ 1:00 p.m. in PH 104

#### **7. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.