

MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL

DATE OF MEETING: FEBRUARY 17, 2016

The February 17, 2016 meeting of the Graduate Council was called to order at 1:20 p.m. in SH 308 by Dr. Claudia Haag, Interim Vice Chair of the Graduate Council.

ATTENDANCE:

- Members: Tamby Allman, Brenda Bailey (sub for Husny Amerih), Mary Anderson, Catherine Bailey, Rosemary Candelario, Pei-Fen Chang, Sara Fanning, Jessica Gullion, Claudia Haag (substitute for Holly Hansen-Thomas), DiAnna Hynds, Mark Kessler, Hyuk-Jin Lee, Larry LeFlore (ex-officio), Joel Muro (substitute for Claudia Haag), David Nichols, Kimberly Parker, Linda Rubin, Susan Sheriff, Kai-Li Tsai, Shih-Chiao Tseng, Anne Young, Vicki Zeigler
- Guests: Bobby Lothringer, Robert Neely, Donna Scott-Tilley

MINUTES APPROVED:

- The meeting minutes for January 20, 2016 were approved and disseminated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Dr. LeFlore reported the following:**
 - Dr. LeFlore spoke on the status of Texas membership with the SRB and implications for Academic Common Market (ACM) Students. There are currently 11 ACM students. The Graduate Council was advised to direct all new ACM students to his office. The Governor has not signed the ACM bill for Texas, however students should be encouraged to continue their program. Hopefully by the end of spring the bill will be signed.
 - The Coordinating Board announced it will require 13 characteristics of professional doctoral programs. There has not been an effective time line in place since additional discussions are forthcoming.
 - Imaginuity representatives presented their report on strategic digital marketing and branding for graduate education at TWU. There will be more information as decisions are made.
 - Sheila-Bustillos-Reynolds will represent TWU at the Southern Conference of Graduate Schools for the 3-Minute Thesis Competition, this weekend in Charlotte, NC.
 - Information has been emailed concerning the Graduate Program Showcase. Program representatives are needed from 10-11:15a.m. on Saturday, March 5th. Please confirm program representatives through email by Tuesday, March 1st.
 - Graduate Student Appreciation Week takes place April 4th – 9th on all three campuses. More information will follow through email.

GUESTS:

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- **Dr. Robert Neely, Provost & VP of Academic Affairs**
 - Dr. Neely thanked and expressed his devotion to the Graduate Council. He expressed a varied of major concerns that he hopes to address over the next year. Master and Doctoral student credit hours has decreased from year 2011 to 2015. Some suggestions for this decrease includes more sections given to undergraduate students. Graduate student stipends are another concern Dr. Neely addressed. Dr. LeFlore has suggested getting away from a tiered system. He is asking the Cabinet for \$274,000 in stipends. Dr. Neely is not optimistic about this request due to a past deficit.
 - Dr. Neely spoke on Imaginuity suggestions for TWU. Imaginuity is an external vendor working with Cindy Pollards office, with the focus on gaining insight and subject matter expertise that will help craft TWU's graduate program messaging and communication strategy. The overall focus is to enhance recruitment and enrollment. At the end of the review Imaginuity had rated TWU low in scholarly creative activity which is a concern. There are plans in the near future to address this revelation.
 - External funding has been another major concern. It is challenging for faculty to gain the maximum stipends for research due to lack of grant writing time. Some ways to combat this is hiring more visiting faculty adjuncts therefore giving faculty more time to write grants and complete research.

SUMMARY REPORTS FROM 2015-2016 STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- **Executive Committee – Interim Vice Chair, Dr. Claudia Haag (sub for Dr. Dunlap)**
 - Dr. Claudia Haag requested more nominees for the Allsup-Lane Scholarship. The deadline to have in all applications is February 26, 2016.
- **Research Committee- Dr. DiAnna Hynds, Chair**
 - Dr. DiAnna Hynds requested nominations for the Graduate Council Award for Exceptional, Original, Scholarship and the Chancellor's Research Scholars. Dr. Hynds plans to meet with the Research Committee on March 9th to discuss nominees and then submit winners to Tracy Lindsay's office
- **Academic Standards Committee – Dr. Kimberly Parker, Chair**
 - Dr. Kimberly Parker proposed the need for each department to have a student handbook and policy. Some departments don't have a student handbook which makes student expectations unclear. Dr. Parker will follow up with more information concerning this proposal through email.

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- **Membership Committee** – Dr. Anne Young, Chair
 - Dr. Anne Young thanked the committee members for their considerable efforts in reviewing 2 applications. She also stressed the importance of faculty reapplying for membership if they are due to expire in August 2016.
 - The committee recommended approval of the following individuals for graduate faculty membership.

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	COMPONENT	RECOMMENDATION
Constance	Ayers	Nursing	Full
Lilia	Muro	Family Sciences	Full

Dr. Karen Dunlap moved that the Council approve the recommendations, and the motion was approved unanimously.

REPORTS:

- Dr. Donna Scott-Tilley provided a handout with the following information:
 - The 19th Annual Student Creative Arts and Research Symposium will be held Tuesday, April 12 and Wednesday, April 13 in the Administrative & Conference Towner (ACT) on the Denton Campus. The student symposium highlights research and scholarly activities of undergraduate and graduate students across many departments and colleges.
 - Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) TWU will have a one-year subscription to ICPSR. Usage will be assessed on a yearly decision which will be renewed based on usage.
 - Information on applying for the Summer Research Initiative and the Chancellor's Research Fellowship will be sent in the near future.
 - The Research Enhancement Program will be offering competitions for both new and continuing faculty awards twice a year now. Posting materials and information concerning applying will be sent out soon.
- Ad-Hoc Committee for Graduate Faculty Workload - Dr. DiAnna Hynds, Chair
 - The committee proposed a change in faculty workload credit. With the help from Dr. Scott-Tilley the Graduate Council should expect to see a poll and email concerning this initiative. Hopefully there will be some resolve next meeting regarding the proposed changes to faculty workload credit.

ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.