

MINUTES
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

MEETING: August 31, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: D. Baker, R. Cohen, A. Daily, D. Dasgupta, E. Delavega, E. Groenendyk, J. Haddock, J. Lariscy, T. Maclin, A. Mickelson, C. Powell, T. Roche, D. Ruggiero, C. Santo, J. Scraba, X. Shen, O. Skalli, J. Topinka

MEMBERS ABSENT: J. McCutcheon

PROXIES: B. Burraston (for J. McCutcheon)

GUESTS: Robin Poston, Rebecca Laumann, Balaji Krishnan, Lan Wang, and Fernanda Maria Botelho

1. Q&A about international students

Guests: Robin Poston, Rebecca Laumann, & Balaji Krishnan

- a. Students must still meet the residency requirement. Minimum 3 credit hours, must prove that the student is here.
- b. One way to help international students is to let them enroll in Independent Study.
- c. Balaji Krishnan is helping with this situation. Faculty and students can reach out to him at krishnan@memphis.edu.
- d. Assistantships for master's students were discussed. Dr. Poston has created a committee to examine the impact of a new model in which tuition waivers can be awarded separately and stipends are paid at hourly rates.

2. Introduction of new or returning Council members

The council has six new members:

ANTH: Ted Maclin, who is replacing Micah Trapp

COMP: Dipankar Dasgupta (for the fall; Scott Fleming is on PDA)

CJUS: James McCutcheon, who is replacing Shelley Keith

ESCI: Andrew Mickelson (returning for fall; Dorian Burnette is on PDA)

MATH: Fernando Botelho, who is replacing John Haddock

SOCI: Joseph Lariscy, who is replacing Wes James

3. Approval of the minutes from the March, April, and May 2020 Council meetings

- a. Dr. Kreuz asked if there were any changes to the March 2020 minutes. There were none. Dr. Delavega moved to approve, and Dr. Groenendyk seconded. All voted in favor.

- b. Dr. Kreuz asked if there were any changes to the April 2020 minutes. There were none. Dr. Roche moved to approve, and Dr. Cohen seconded. All voted in favor.
- c. Dr. Kreuz asked if there were any changes to the May 2020 minutes. There were none. Dr. Daily moved to approve, and Dr. Roche seconded. All voted in favor.

Dr. Kreuz reminded the Council members that the graduate headcount spreadsheets are due to him by Wednesday. He has received about a third of them.

4. Review of the Council's purpose, schedule, and procedures

Due to time constraints, an overview of the Council's functions was cut from the meeting's agenda. A document describing the Council's operation was sent to members in an email on September 1. The document is called "Council follow-up notes.pdf"

5. Formation of 2020-21 Council subcommittees

Council members volunteered to serve on the Council's standing subcommittees.

6. Vote on change of name for Computer Science

- a. A name change for Computer Science was proposed by Dr. Dasgupta. It would change the unit's name from the Department of Computer Science to School of Computer Science.
- b. Dr. Delavega questioned the need for this. Dr. Baker made a motion to table the proposal until the next meeting. Dr. Roche has seconded the motion, and it was approved.
- c. There was some discussion about the definition of a school versus a department.

7. Announcements

New graduate faculty status levels: chairs have been asked by Brian Meredith to update departmental lists. October 15 is the deadline to update the website.

8. Report on the August 26, 2020 College Directors meeting

This following information was cut from the meeting due to time constraints, but is being shared here:

- a. *Fall enrollment update - Graduate enrollments are healthy, and as of today, up by 8.7% (headcount) and 9.4% (credit hour), year over year. UG enrollment is flat, so we're down .3% in credit hours overall, and .1% by headcount.*
- b. *Changes to the model for funding master's students were discussed. Tuition may be scholarshiped. This would entitle master's students to in-state tuition.
Stipends would be separate (part-time employee)
\$10-\$12/hour, so not intended as a living wage
Can't make GA offers to master's students going forward*

Current students will be grandfathered

- c. DocuSign migration for proposal defense and final defense forms coming*
- d. The Graduate School has stopped sending out acceptance letters via snail mail as a cost saving measure.*
- e. A task force is being created to explore transfer and shared credits for second master's degrees*
- f. A task force is being created to explore expired course grade removals (low grades from a previous program are causing GPA problems for students when they start a new program)*

9. Adjournment

Dr. Burraston made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Groenendyk provided a second. All voted in favor.

Minutes prepared by Tori Tardugno based on notes and a recording of the session, and edited by Dr. Kreuz