

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL FOR GRADUATE STUDIES

Meeting #478

December 10, 2021

2:00 – 4:00 PM – Zoom

AGENDA ITEMS:

Melanie Conroy – proxy for Paul Simon on all votes

478.1 Vote to approve minutes from #477, held on November 5, 2021 - APPENDIX A

Motion to approve – Roger Meier

Second – Colin Chapell

Yes – Unanimous approval

No

Abstain

478.2a Vote to approve Curriculog agenda for College of Arts and Sciences

Roger Kreuz discussed the proposals.

Motion to approve – Roger Meier

Second – Steve Zanskas

Point of order – Larry Weiss

Yes - Unanimous

No

Abstain

478.2b Vote to approve Curriculog agenda for College of Communications and Fine Art

Ryan Fisher – program revisions – not on agenda. Ryan F. proceeded to discuss the proposals that were on the Curriculog agenda.

Motion to approve – Ryan Fisher

Second – Michael Harris

Yes - Unanimous

No

Abstain

478.2c Vote to approve Curriculog agenda for College of Health Sciences

Larry Weiss discussed proposals

Motion to approve – Larry Weiss

Second – Brad Harrell

Yes - Unanimous

No

Abstain

478.2d Vote to approve Curriculog agenda for Herff College of Engineering

Roger Meier discussed the proposals.

Motion to approve – Roger Meier

Second – Colin Chappell

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Yes - Unanimous

No

Abstain

478.2e Vote to approve Curriculog agenda for Kemmons Wilson School

Rui Qi discussed the proposals.

Motion to approve – Rui Qi

Second – Roger Meier

Yes – Unanimous

No

478.2f Vote to approve Curriculog agenda for School of Public Health

Vikki Nolan discussed the proposals.

Motion to approve – Vikki Nolan

Second – Joanne Gikas

Yes – Unanimous

No

Abstain

478.3 Spring enrollment – OIR Report – BM

Brian M presented statistics on spring enrollment. New enrollments will grow. Returning enrollments affected by transcript requirement for starting 2nd term.

478.4 TCGS Master's Thesis/Project Award UofM Nomination Selection – Taylor Ackerman

Tom Rock – Graduate Director for Journalism and Strategic Media discussed Taylor Ackerman's Master Thesis content and congratulated her on the award and being selected.

Thesis topic - Micro celebrities – people who use social media to promote their business and themselves vs people who are authentic users of social media.

Looked at social media postings and compared them to traditional celebrities and influencers.

Compared appx 500 social media postings. Found that social media influences were found to be more authentic than the postings of people to promote themselves and their business.

478.5 Other business

Robin Poston- thanked the council for their patience and cooperation in the new Curriculog process.

Alletha Davis commented on the progress of the 2022-2023 catalog. The catalog is on target for publishing March 2022.

Robin Poston. - GA budgets will remain stable for the next year and do not expect any major changes to the budget. All monies should be the same for next year.

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Lisa L Mendell – needed verification that the money will not come from the GA budget. Master students will be decentralized to department to determine funding.

Robin Poston -recommended that in the annual proposal to let the budget office know if the numbers are off. Ask for more if needed.

Larry Weiss - Questioned why funding is different for masters and doctoral candidates.

Roger Meier- Does recentralizing mean going back to the scholarship office? Robin is pushing for automation. Roger suggested waiting till the beginning of class to determine what funding is needed based on credit hours. Scholarships should automatically change based on credit hours.
Robin Poston – We had a record number (1300) of I-20s issued for Spring 2022. Extra staff were brought in to assist with the work of processing the I-20s. Asked graduate leaders to ensure faculty and staff to be more patient with the students and help. Ambassadors have established special pricing housing agreements.

Ranga Gopalakrishna - Students are being misled about graduate assistantships. This is based on emails from students. Students are supposed to have independent financial assistance, but students are not being communicated to accurately by recruiters. Admitting students with lower standards who ask for “free money” Communicated need to be more transparent with students about chances to receive assistantships.

Robin Poston – Career services has added a tab for GA positions. A central database has been established to assist students who are seeking GA positions. Robin emphasized that our standards should not be lowered for GA students. Students cannot receive an I-20 without proving that they have the financial ability to pay for their tuition.

Kurt Krieger- department is exploring bringing in an external company to help with their strategic plan. Asked for recommendations from the council.

Michael Harris - Dissertation writers retreat still has room for students. Feature discussions on research, editing and mental health. Attendance will be in person and remote. Larry W. suggested adding master students in the future.

Lisa Mendel - Express concern about the number of email reminders that are being received about missing grades. Robin and Brian can mention the email issue to Darla. Joann suggested sending emails thanking the ones that “did” send their grades in on time.

Robin Poston - adjourned meeting at 3:10pm.

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Distribution Items:

APPENDIX A - 477 meeting minutes