

Graduate Student Employment Committee (GSEC)

Minutes of October 4, 2018 meeting

Committee members present – DuBose, Goldberg, Gustafson, Henderson, Mobley, Popovaite.

Committee members absent – Faith, Lingo, Thaggert, Tranel, White.

Others present – Campo, Danger, Keller, Pak, Welter.

The meeting was called to order by Dean John Keller @ 1:47 PM.

1. Minutes from the September 6, 2018, meeting were approved unanimously.
2. Updates/Announcements – Leadership searches currently underway.
 - CLAS Dean Search – candidates coming to campus in October.
 - Provost Search – off campus interviews in November.
 - Vice President for Research – off campus interviews this fall.
 - Graduate College Associate Dean – first round interviews this week and next.
3. Review of updated GSEC Spring 2018 survey draft report – this report version was approved by the committee. The report is to be posted with the meeting minutes on the GSEC website.
4. Draft recommendations for discussion – Recommendations made by GSEC committee to university leadership would go into effect at the beginning of calendar year 2020 (effective for academic year 2019-2020). GSEC Spring 2018 survey responses consistently reflect student concern for out of pocket expenses, in addition to other areas of concern (e.g., vision coverage and spouse, child, and family coverage). The committee discussed what types of questions may best inform them in decision making. Dean Keller will contact Joni Troester about items that GSEC feels may be insightful when determining health care recommendations (cost containment, design changes, and plan utilization).
5. Information on Total Compensation for graduate assistants – A draft handout of the total compensation for 2018-2019 graduate assistants (Academic Year and Fiscal Year appointments) was distributed to the committee.
6. April 15th resolution – Dean Keller notes the Council of Graduate School (CGS) April 15th resolution was intended for student recruits. In order to not place pressure upon the prospective student prior to receiving all offers of support, no institution that signed the April 15th resolution may require the student to commit prior to April 15th.

Reappointment by April 15th are separate matter. Many, not all, program letters of commitment state a set number of funding years. Programs that are committing to two years of funding to a student are encouraged by the Graduate College to add additional resource to better support their doctoral students. These advancements are difficult to achieve when funding is stable, and even more so when mid-year rescissions are made by the State of Iowa. When students are adversely impacted by state financial decisions, students can advocate to their legislators.

Meeting adjourned at 2:51 PM.