

Graduate Council Meeting October 29, 2020

Present: Professors: Badovinac, Butali, Cwiertny, Doucette, Gfeller, Forbes, Greyser, Hoffmann, Huber, Kang, O'Shaughnessy; Graduate Students: DeYoung, Gabriele, Piegors, Waldstein; Graduate College Personnel: Arbisi-Kelm, Campo, Keller, McKibben, Meintel, Teitle, Varga.

Absent: Professors: Hribar; Graduate Students: Gabriele.

The meeting was called to order by Dean John Keller @ 08:16 AM.

1. Approval of October 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes (Keller)

No revisions to the distributed minutes were offered, a motion for approval was presented (O'Shaughnessy), seconded (Huber), and unanimous consent obtained.

2. Announcements and Updates from the Graduate College (Keller)

- i. The Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) meeting scheduled for November 4, 2020, will feature guest speaker, [Tracey Benson](#), Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, who will be discussing broadly implicit bias and racism in graduate education.
- ii. The Graduate College fall 2020 doctoral and masters virtual [commencement ceremony](#) will be held on December 18, 2020. The deadline for student registration, completed through the [MyUI](#) web portal (Degrees/Graduation > Commencement Attendance), is December 01, 2020. For the planned event, the Graduate College would like to receive candid photographs of participating degree candidates to combine in a montage for the virtual event.
- iii. The [Three Minute Thesis 2020](#) virtual competition comprised forty-two participants in the preliminary rounds and currently fifteen final student competitors. The [3MT Winner Announcement & Q&A Zoom Event](#) is scheduled for November 06, 2020.
- iv. Dean Keller requested the Graduate Council members to convene for an additional fall semester 2020 meeting on Thursday, December 03, 2020 to maintain the pace on several activities underway. Two preliminary agenda items for the meeting consist of providing updates on the pilot project undertaken by the [Council of Graduate Schools](#) to ascertain information about [Graduate Student Mental Health and Well-being](#) in higher education (including summaries from different affinity group meetings and Dean Keller's participation in the virtual national meeting) and to gather input from the council on the revision of the UI Strategic Plan (UISP) reporting. Considerations for the final draft received from the Provost Office included the DEI Action Plan; therefore in the next scheduled council meeting Elizabeth Lara, Graduate College DEI Director, will be introduced and will be sharing about the work that she has been undertaking and the status of the efforts in this area within the Graduate College.

3. Discussion of Graduate College Fellowships Programs (Campo)

Associate Dean Shelly Campo presented on the status of the Graduate College's [Internal Fellowship Programs](#). Quantitative data and fellowship mechanisms were noted, including key topics related to nomination deadlines, stipend adjustments, recruitment fellowships, retention/completion, professional development, and adjustments in distributing resources to students and departments in the best possible way in response to the impact of the pandemic,

Take-Aways

Intradepartmental calls for nominations for fellowship applications have been circulated and the submissions were acknowledged, and appreciation expressed to the council members on behalf of their departments. To date it was deemed an active nomination cycle as submissions are continuing to be reviewed.

• **Noted Fellowship Deadlines**

- i. [Ballard and Seashore Dissertation Fellowships](#) and [Post-Comprehensive Research Awards](#) deadlines have transpired for the spring 2021 semester and notifications posted.
- ii. [Graduate Diversity Scholarships and Fellowships](#) and the [Research Grants for the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences](#) (GSS/GC/OVPR funded) deadlines have passed and presently there is an impending deadline for the [Underrepresented Minority Thesis Fellowship for Masters and DMA Students](#).

• **Noted Chages to Exisiting Fellowships: Stipend Adjustments**

- i. All semester fellowships are now \$10,000.
- ii. All summer fellowships were increased to \$5000.
- iii. Top off money on recruitment and LuLu Merle Johnson fellowships increased retroactively from \$2000 to \$5,000 to assist with departments' recruitment efforts.

• **Graduate College Funding Support FY21: Recruitment Fellowships**

Fellowships intended for recruiting new students include:

- i. Capote (6), Creative Writing Program; provides year 1 funding.
- ii. [Iowa Arts Fellowship](#) (26), Recruitment fellowship for MFA students; provides year 1 funding.
- iii. [Iowa Performance Fellowships](#) (3), Recruitment fellowship for DMA students; provides year 1 funding.
- iv. [Iowa Recruitment](#) (113) non under-represented, (42) under-represented; provides a top-off (supplement), \$10,000 FY appointments (\$5000 AY and \$5,000 Su).
- v. [Lulu Merle Johnson Fellowships](#) (26 / 15 new this year); provides year 1 funding.

• **Graduate College Funding Support FY 21: Retention / Completion**

- i. [ACT Scholars Program](#) (13) – Diversity Fellowships funded by [ACT Inc.](#), comprised largely of COE doctoral students.
- ii. [Ballard and Seashore Dissertation](#) (70, fall 2020 & spring 2021). Final semester support for completing scholarly resarch and dissertation writing.
- iii. [Graduate Diversity Tuition Scholarship/Fellwoship](#) (27, summer & fall 2020 / FY20: 54).
- iv. [MFA Summer Fellowship](#) (30 / summer 2020).
- iv. Pelzer (7) - Humanities Departemtent.
- v. [Post-Comprehensive Research Fellowship](#) (115).
- vi. [Winifred S. Scott Scholarship](#) (1) - Supports students pursuing education in child growth and development (i.e., [Health and Human Physiology - Child Life](#), COE) .
- vii. [Summer Fellowships](#) (179, summer 2020), Post-Comprehensive Fellowship.
- ix. [URM Pre-Comprehensive Exam Mentored Research Fellowship](#) (5, Summer 2020), supports early research engagement and has generated subequent student publications.
- x. [URM Thesis Fellowship for Masters and DMA Students](#) (0, fall 2020 / Spring 2021?).

• **Professional Development**

- i. [Digital Scholarship & Publishing Studio Summer Fellowships](#) (15, summer 20)
- ii. [GSS Travel/Virtual Conferences](#) (131 budgeted), Noted variance in registration fees; unused budget will be re-allocated to another funding resource.
- iii. [GSS/GC/OVPR Research Grants For The Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences](#) (15 budgeted).

- iv. [Kenneth Key Scholarship](#) (3), Tuition scholarships and professional development support for Taiwanese national students.
- v. [T. Anne Cleary International Dissertation Research Fellowships](#) (2 holding) It was noted that the BOR university sponsored travel restrictions through the spring 2021 semester has had repercussions for students' plans for conducting international dissertation research (both Cleary and Post Comp Fellowship recipients). The Graduate College is working with the students' departments (i.e., Anthropology, History, Art History, etc.) to determine if other scholarly engagement by the students can be pursued to advance their research.

- **Graduate Fellowships**

- i. Deans Graduate Research Fellowship (1, discontinued)
- ii. Presidential Graduate Research Fellowship (5, discontinued)

- **Q&A**

The impressive categorical and numeric scope of the Graduate College's internal fellowships was acknowledged by the council and further elaboration was provided by Dean Campo regarding the stability of the budget.

- i. The budget was expected to remain relatively stable but an increase in awards was not expected barring receipt of extra appropriations.
- ii. Maintaining flexibility in disbursement of needed resources (i.e., re-allocations) will continue and there is remaining CARES Act funds that have been utilized earlier in the summer and into the fall 2020 to assist qualifying students with COVID related delays.
- iii. Currently less flexibility and closer evaluation of predictive budget allocations to colleges has resulted in a more difficult and onerous review process (i.e., awarding carefully the number of fellowships relative to the remaining balance of allocations within colleges).
- iv. Re-evaluation of the flexible use of resources within the Graduate College has occurred due to the impact of the pandemic. An example was cited by Dean Keller of the substantial increase in the number of Graduate College Summer Fellowships awarded (179) in an effort to help students in need of assistance, resources which were allocated away from funding areas less likely to be used (i.e., GSS/Graduate College Presentation/Virtual Conference Funds, Degree-related Travel Awards, etc.).
- v. The Graduate College has been developing a project based on discourses with the collegiate deans to determine the approximate number of doctoral and terminal degree students (MFA, MPH, etc.) that will likely need extended funding due to the pandemic. A proposal has been submitted recently to the Office of the Provost in anticipation of a need for funds in the spring, summer, and fall 2021. The mechanism model for the Ballard Seashore Fellowship (a one semester allocation) would be used.
- vi. Support for students that may be facing challenges into the future accessing the research materials needed due to domestic and international travel restrictions are an outstanding concern within the Graduate College; the prospect that this cohort may be faced with having to modify their dissertation work in order to accommodate to such impediments.
- vii. The disruption to the pattern of research and scholarship due to the pandemic has raised uncertainties as well with respect to future departmental admissions practices and degree completions. It is expected that there will be a decreased level of students in several programs in effort to manage resources for their current students; accordingly, a noted decrease in the number of students completing their degrees in fall and spring 2021 relative to historic numbers. In conclusion, key emphasis was expressed by Dean Keller that the Graduate College is committed to attempting to support all views and possibilities encompassing the challenging issues and concerns that are transpiring in higher education as a result of the pandemic (budgetary, admissions, time to degree, etc.); to making adjustments

in the best ways possible, aiding and supporting students toward their completion of high quality work during the current and future speculative times.

4. Update and Discussion of Crowdfunding Campaign—TechEquity (Keller et al)

The Graduate College has successfully exceeded its goal of reaching \$10,000 through the Crowdfunding Campaign—TechEquity. Focused on students disadvantaged in graduate education (largely BIPOC and students with disabilities), the call for nominations to access resources continues until November 04, 2020 with an intent to disburse funds as early as possible prior to Thanksgiving when classes plan to be moved online. The maximum amount of funds an eligible student may receive is \$750, a ceiling which represented a substantive number of the 147-158 submissions received; resulting in a perceived aggregate total of approximately \$100,000. Initial input was sought from the council members in establishing the criterion and triaging the requests appropriately given that the needs exceed the available resources generated through the crowdfunding campaign.

- i. It was suggested that possibly private foundations or philanthropic organizations established to expand educational opportunities and access to information technology (i.e., [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#)), might provide guidance or support for the project.
- ii. Graduate College emergency funds have been allocated to the Office of the Dean of Students and DEI initiatives to assist in emergency efforts on behalf of students within the last year. In addition, it is possible federal government resources received from the CARES Act, as previously mentioned, may be available. The federal funds however need to be expended by May 2021 and includes eligibility restrictions which would exclude international students.
- iii. [Graduate Student Senate \(GSS\)](#) and [Graduate & Professional Student Government \(GPSG\)](#) were cited as two possible graduate student organizations that potentially may have resources to re-allocate for supporting the initiative, a possibility that will be discussed at the next GSS Executive Council on November 02, 2020.

5. Review of Graduate College Draft Strategic Plan (Keller)

- Copies of the Strength-Weakness-Opportunity-Threat (SWOT) analysis and the draft of the Graduate College Path Forward Strategic Plan, assembled by the Graduate College Strategic Planning Committee (January 28, 2020) and submitted to the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost (EVPP) spring 2020, were distributed to the council members. Included were considerations—received from then-acting Executive Vice President and Provost Montserrat Fuentes—for reviewing areas of the plan in support of revisions for the March 01, 2021 submission deadline.
- Among the agenda items planned for the next Graduate Council meeting convening on (Nov 12), a summary review of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) outreach and support efforts in the Graduate College will be presented by DEI Director, Elizabeth Lara. Following that briefing, Dean Keller requested members begin deliberations at the December 03, 2020, meeting with respect to the reported DEI operations and the current draft of the strategic plan before the Graduate College undertakes further its formal revisions in the winter through early spring semester.

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 AM

Future 2020-21 Graduate Council Meeting Dates

2020: November 12, December 3

2021: January 28, February 11, 25, March 11 April 1, 15.