

Graduate Council Meeting February 11, 2021

Present: Professors: Cwiertny, Doucette, Forbes, Gardner, Gfeller, Hoffmann, Hribar, Kang, O'Shaughnessy; Graduate Students: DeYoung, Waldstein, Piegors; Graduate College Personnel: Adams-Hiett, Arbisi-Kelm, Danger, Jenkins, McKibben, Teitle, Varga.

Absent: Professors: Badovinac, Butali, Greysen, Huber; Graduate Students: Gabriele; Graduate College Personnel: Campo, Keller.

The meeting was called to order by Associate Dean Steve Varga @ 08:17 AM.

1. Announcements and Updates from the Graduate College

- i. Associate Dean Varga announced Dean Keller is out of the office this week.
- ii. Dean Keller has allotted Graduate College funds to aid terminal degree students negatively impacted by the pandemic. Associate Dean Campo is coordinating that effort. The college is in the process of requesting from the Provost Office to acquire additional funding from the second stimulus bill.
- iii. Barry Schreier from University Counseling Service and Dean Keller are discussing a way to expand mental health and wellness services to graduate students. A model under discussion is embedding a counselor in the Graduate College.
- iv. May commencements will be virtual. Additional details will be announced in the UI email. Students will need to opt-in to participate. The RSVP portal will begin in March.
- v. The University of Iowa is a signatory to the Council of Graduate Schools April 15th resolution. A student cannot be asked to make a decision prior to April 15th on any funding offer. If you hear of another institution placing pressure on a prospect, please inform the Graduate College. For example, prospects hearing that four offers were extended but only the first two to confirm attendance is not in keeping with the spirit of the resolution.
- vi. Fellowship season is well underway with several due this week and many more due in March.
- vii. Be on the lookout for a university announcement regarding drop and withdrawal deadlines.
- viii. Graduate Student Senate President Piegors announced GSS has held one meeting this session. The agenda was mostly housekeeping and committee discussions. Committees have been hard to hold together during the pandemic. There is also an ongoing dialogue with the English as a Second Language program regarding their testing procedures.

2. Minutes from the December 3, 2020 and January 28, 2021 meetings were approved.

- 3. Proposal to create K-12 Equity and Inclusion graduate certificate.** Associate Dean Varga introduced proposers Ain Grooms, Assistant Professor in Educational Policy and Leadership Studies, and Amanda Thein, College of Education Associate Dean, were available to address questions or concerns regarding the proposal. After discussion a motion was made, and the vote to advance the proposal was approved.

- 4. Jacobsen Conference.** Kody Waldstein, Vice President of GSS, outlined discussions on moving forward with the Jacobsen Conference in 2021 after it was suspended last year to revitalize the format. The objective is to add value to students across all disciplines which should in turn increase student participation. Many of the new format ideas do not conform to a virtual setting. Nonetheless the Jacobsen Conference is being held virtually in 2021. The key elements for 2021 are:

- i. The conference will be entirely virtual.
- ii. It will adapt formatting from the very popular 3MT event.
 - i. Increase community engagement by using lay terms.
 - ii. Place a time limit on the presentation length, but not the number of slides.
- iii. Identify a keynote speaker. With limited funding for honoraria, the committee is searching for alumni representing a variety of professional careers and are well-positioned to speak from a diversity, equity, and inclusion lens.

- iv. Hold live panel sessions. Students enjoy career panels as a means of exploring the full range of career routes.
 - v. Cash prizes for winners.
 - vi. Will be scheduled after graduate student appreciation week.
5. **Revised Graduate College website.** Andy Jenkins and Sean Adams-Heitt discussed the need to migrate the collegiate website to the Drupal 8 web development software. The process has allowed campus web developers to share needs and experiences to create a robust, beautiful, and mobile-friendly format that is compliant with UI branding. Team work brought the multiple skillsets together to inform and enhance bandwidth for “full stack” (broad-skilled) and design specialists. This migration was a manual process and included thousands of page reviews. Content owners are now empowered to directly control their content updates. Changes to content will be addressed going forward. A feedback link was added. Using Drupal 8 across campus will allow analysis of graduate student web movement, not just how they engage with the Graduate College. These insights should more holistically inform how to place information for graduate student use.

The meeting was adjourned at 09:16 AM.

Future 2020-21 Graduate Council Meeting Dates

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