

Graduate Council Meeting
Thursday, August 31, 2023

Present: Professors: Barragan, Beck, Doucette, Filios, Frank, O'Shaughnessy, Qian, Van Otterloo; Graduate Students: Ismaiel, Monaghan, Nennig, Tennesen; Graduate College Personnel: Arbisi-Kelm, Danger, Teitle, Thein

Absent: Professors: Buck, Hoffman, Hribar, Johnson, Legge.

The meeting was called to order by Dean Thein at 08:21 a.m.

1. Welcome & Introductions.

2. Announcements

Graduate College announcements:

- The Fall 2023 New Graduate Student Orientation went well. This year more graduate students engaged with our in-person events than online. The in-person components included live music, a services fair in the IMU, giveaways, and a food truck.
- The Graduate College conducted a Gold Rush last year to fund a peer-to-peer mentoring initiative named GradLife P2P. In its first year there are about 75 matched pairs. A pair is one first-year graduate student mentee and one second-year+ graduate student mentor. Mentor training and networking events will be provided to the volunteer peer mentors.
- The accelerated creation of degree audits for graduate education is now underway. This initiative has dedicated effort for three years thanks to a partnership between the Graduate College and the Provost Office. Degree audit is the degree requirement evaluation tool (UAchieve) used by the University of Iowa. Anticipated outcomes of this initiative include degree clearance efficiency, accuracy, and transparency.
- The Graduate College has begun a search for an Associate Dean. Messaging has been sent across campus. The position description can be found <https://jobs.uiowa.edu/faculty/view/74917>. It is listed as 80% effort, assuming the remaining 20% effort will be negotiated with the faculty member's department.
- June's SCOTUS determination impacted graduate admissions. Over the summer the Graduate College worked in conjunction with the Office of General Counsel to be legally compliant with the ruling while maintaining the University's strategic commitment to high-quality and inclusive education. [A website was created to inform campus of changes](#). The pause on graduate admissions ends on 9/1/23. Discussion ensued.

Graduate Student Senate announcements:

- The executive committee is excited to begin the year.
- The first general assembly meeting is scheduled for 9/12/23.

3. Review of Grad Council's duties and responsibilities.

Dean Thein reviewed the Graduate College Manual, Part 2, Section XVI. Discussion included an overview of membership, term of office, and duties of the council.

4. Minutes of the April 13, 2023, meeting. O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.