

Graduate Faculty Council (GFC)

October 19, 2021

1:30 to 3 p.m.

**Meeting minutes**

Present: Alex Galazyuk, Amy Lee, Angelo DeLucia, Chris Vinyard, Gabbie Frame, Jesse Young, Matthew Smith, Natalie Bonfine, Nate Flath, Nicholas Osborne, Priya Raman, Rebecca Fischbein, Scott Wisneski, Steven Schmidt, Vivian von Gruenigen

Guests: Carli Toth, Brienne Seekford, Erin Franks

Absent: Julie Aultman, Jodie Turosky, and Vahagn Ohanyan

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
1. Call to Order	Dr. Schmidt called the meeting to order and introduced Brie Seekford, the assistant program-director for the MMSA program. She will be working closely with Nate Flath to administer the program as well as teaching in the simulation lab and clinical settings. Brie received her undergraduate degree from YSU and her CAA in Connecticut.	
2. Approval of August 17, 2021 meeting minutes	Dr. Schmidt asked the council if there were any edits or corrections to the minutes from June. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Dr. Galazyuk made a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. von Gruenigen seconded the motion. The meeting minutes from the August GFC meeting were approved.	
3. Chancellor's Council on Graduate Studies	<p>Dr. Aultman provided an update of the CCGS by way of a pre-recorded video. She attended a virtual retreat October 7 – 8, 2021. Key points of the retreat are as follows:</p> <p>Graduate schools across the state are experiencing low enrollment which will increase; “we are going to see a decline in graduate students in the next 5 years based on undergraduate enrollments.” This is based on low enrollment in undergraduate institutions, job market trends, and overall apathy of students wanting to enter graduate education.</p> <p>Online education with personal interactions has significantly increased and has helped several programs by capturing older student populations, students across the U.S. who do not have to move to Ohio, and for those who want to be more competitive in the job market.</p> <p>There is an ongoing trend with a lack of ability/resources to hire new faculty and graduate assistantships (funding issues/funding is going to other needs). Along with hiring shortages, faculty course leaders and directors are leaving institutions and not being replaced at the same level.</p> <p>Difference between professional degree programs and traditional graduate degree programs: professional programs do not require students to generate new knowledge. CCGS is scrutinizing new programs</p> <p>Diversity – URM and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) definitions were examined. This is an ongoing issue across the state. Discussed ways to improve student diversity for</p>	

	<p>enrollment and retention in small groups. Clear definitions of DEI are needed. STEM and Women should be captured and not just URM, among other diverse groups (e.g., LGBTQ) and that identifying groups (where appropriate) is important for review of programs and accreditation purposes.</p> <p>Graduate Bridge Programs: A graduate bridge program involves enrolling students into one of several graduate certificate programs and giving them a chance to get the necessary grades to then transition into a Master or PhD program; for students who do not get good GREs or have a GPA lower than 3.0 (within reason – 2.0-2.9 for example), they have a chance to prove themselves. Such a program can increase URM students who might have had a shaky start in undergrad due to a lack of opportunity and support, students who have had family or health issues, among others who simply have the potential but could use a program to show their talents. While there are not many students (n=87) at OSU compared to the general graduate student population, it is an option that can have some important value and has increased diversity. Dr. Aultman posed the question to the council would a bridge program be valuable at NEOMED?</p> <p>Program changes and thresholds. HLC criteria says if 25% of the program has changed, the program needs to be re-evaluated. CCGS criteria states 50% of the program needs to change before CCGS needs to re-approve the program. CCGS is not going to change their threshold to match HLC.</p> <p>Assistantships and Stipends: Most of the larger schools have significant funding for assistantships (GAs and RAs) but funding is declining; due to declines, grant funding is often supported by grant funds. Administrative assistantships are not consistent across the state; BGSU has removed all admin assistantships unless the program can justify the educational benefit and other schools are likely to follow. Grant funding to support students seems to be inconsistent across the schools. For example: Miami has external grants to support stipends, and now is requiring the grant fund a portion of the tuition and the stipend. Some other schools are pooling funding sources from a variety of areas (department funds, university funds, grant funding). U of Akron and others will do a portion of tuition through grants (e.g., \$5000 is the most required) and the university covers the rest.</p> <p>Undergraduate to graduate credits: Double Counting More than 9 Credits for Undergraduate to Graduate pathway programs <i>Policy proposal and review (this will be an ongoing conversation and refining of CCGS policies)</i></p> <p><i>Discussion:</i> How to open the door for more flexibility with students; increasing interest in graduate programs.</p> <p>Schools have early grad credits – a student can take 3 credits for example as an undergraduate who has the potential to be successful taking graduate credits (student’s advisor might have to sign off or other requirements, e.g., taking to financial aid). This causes some issues for schools with undergraduate and graduate programs regarding implementation.</p>	
<p>4. Old business a. Student Research Symposium update</p>	<p>Dr. Schmidt provided an update of the Student Research Symposium to the council. The symposium will take place virtually on November 19, 2021, from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. 134</p>	

	<p>abstracts have been received. Students will be notified of their acceptance or need for revisions by the end of this week. The symposium is very much a student-run event as students are submitting abstracts, reviewing abstracts, and moderating break-out rooms. More information will be coming soon.</p>	
<p>5. New Business a. New University policies from the AMP committee</p>	<p>Phil Jenkinson shared two new policies that have been brought forward from the University's AMP committee: Low Course Enrollment policy and University Enrollment.</p> <p>Low Course Enrollment: Impact to the COGS – any courses that have less than five students enrolled will be reviewed by the Registrar's office. The Registrar will work with COGS to determine the reason for low enrollment and determine if the course should be offered.</p> <p>Dr Wisneski pointed out that this policy would affect HSPA greatly. He asked if required courses for program completion could be the exception to the rule.</p> <p>Dr. Smith expressed similar concerns for the IPM program. Adjusting the language to include required courses would help.</p> <p>Katherine Miranda, Registrar, shared that the policy is meant to be a means of checks and balances.</p> <p>Carli Toth explained the process of determining if a course needs to be evaluated based on low attendance to the council. The Registrar's office will report the low enrollment (five students or less, per the VPAA) to the college. The college administration will review the course and decide whether to cancel the course, offer an independent study in its place, or continue forward with the course.</p> <p>It was suggested that the number should be changed from 5 to 3 students enrolled and that required courses be the exception. The options provided are reasonable.</p> <p>Student Enrollment:</p> <p>This is a university policy. Section two of the policy applies to the COGS. With regards to program length, do the following numbers make sense:</p> <p>MS degree – six years PhD degree – ten years PhD + Professional degree – eight years</p> <p>Dr. Schmidt does receive requests to extend MS degree lengths occasionally.</p>	
<p>b. University committee representative reports</p>	<p>Dr. Aultman is on the HLC Committee. It is anticipated that HLC will focus on accreditation of COGS programs. COM and COP have external accrediting organizations as does MPH and MMSA; however, the other degree programs do not. Programs are aware of the potential of focus from HLC during their site visit. Dr. Aultman will work with program directors and advisory committees to be best prepared for the site visit in September 2022.</p> <p>Greg Koman shared that the University Enrollment Council is focusing on marketing strategies.</p> <p>Dr. Smith shared that the Library Resources committee is</p>	

	<p>looking to centralize its approval and budgeting processes. They are proposing that student fees will go into a centralized library budget to provide resources to all three colleges. There may be a slight increase in COM fees, but COP and COGS should not be affected.</p> <p>Dr. Schmidt shared that the Strategic Initiatives Committee approved the proposal for a writing center. More details will be forthcoming. All three colleges will benefit from this.</p>	
<b>Additional Item</b>	Dr. Schmidt shared that the department of Marketing and Communications (MARCOM) is putting together a list of individuals for the banners that hang outside on the light poles. Program directors were asked to submit names of one student and one alum from their programs who demonstrated significant leadership contributions to their programs.	
d. Retirement plans	Dr. Schmidt shared his plans to retire from NEOMED effective June 30, 2022, with the council. Dr. Langell does plan to separate the VP and Dean positions. Dr. Aultman may serve as interim Dean until the position is filled. He shared that he would be interested in serving by teaching or in other ways as the university sees useful.	
6. Program Reports		
a. MPH	Dr. Lee shared that there are 31 students in the consortium, four of them are NEOMED students. The Book Club is continuing. If anyone is interested in having students participate, please let her know. She is conducting core faculty meetings preparing for the site visit.	
b. BMS	Dr. Young reported there are no specific updates at this time. Drs. Mintz and Coolen are still the interim directors at KSU. NEOMED has approximately twenty BMS students on campus currently.	
c. HSPA	Dr. Wisneski reported there are twelve active students in the program – four will graduate in May 2022. He met with partners at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation to let them know the program will be sun-setting. The CCF declined the invitation to roll into the MLHSS program.	
d. Ethics	Phil Jenkinson reported the first eight weeks of coursework is completed. All thesis students have advisors and readers. Dr. Aultman is working on a three-year course completion plan with the Registrar's office.	
e. MMSA	<p>Nate reported that student interviews have been completed. Eleven offers have been sent out to students, six have accepted and deposited to date. He has submitted the paperwork for accreditation and a virtual site visit will take place the first week of December. Brie Seekford, the assistant program director of the program, started two weeks ago. The program is on schedule to enroll students in January 2022.</p> <p>Dr. DeLucia asked how much tuition is for the program. It is \$490.00 per credit hour and there are 111 credit hours for degree completion.</p>	
f. MLHSS	Dr. von Gruenigen reported there are twelve students enrolled in the program. Faculty have been recruited for the spring semester. Recruitment for next year is underway.	
g. IPM and Research Certificate	Dr. Smith reported they are preparing for the HLC site visit that will take place in September 2022. He and Dr. Raman are building out a one-year master's track for students that will consist of 30-32 credit hours. The six new students are doing very well to date. All but one student has committed to an advisor.	
h. MAS	Dr. Vinyard reported that the students are solidly in the medicine portion of their curriculum. He is working to find	

	matches for capstone projects in the spring.	
i. Program Coordinator update	Kelly shared that spring courses have opened in Canvas. The goal is to have them completed by November 19, 2021.	
Student concerns	None to report currently.	
The meeting was adjourned.		