

Graduate Faculty Council (GFC)  
July 19, 2016  
2:30 to 4 p.m.  
Meeting Minutes

Present: Walt Horton, Alex Galazyuk, Denise Inman, Madison Ivan, Yanqiao Zhang, Amy Lee, Chris Ritter, Julie Aultman, Fayez Safadi, Susan Bruce, Nona Hose, and guests Steven Schmidt and Hans Thewissen

Dr. Walter Horton called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the May Graduate Faculty Council meeting. Dr. Amy Lee made a motion to approve them. Dr. Alex Galazyuk seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Dr. Horton shared with the GFC that some changes will be taking place in the College of Graduate Studies as he leaves to go to Texas State University. Dr. Steven Schmidt is present and will be the interim Vice President for Research and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. Dr. Schmidt is very capable of filling these roles. Dr. Jeff Wenstrup also pledges his support during the transaction as well.

Dr. Schmidt shared that he is delighted to be asked to serve in this interim role. He plans to find opportunities to lead the COGS forward while maintaining his role as chair of Pharmaceutical Sciences. His official appointment will begin August 14. He asked members of the GFC to be open in communication as to what they need from him and he appreciates their support.

Dr. Julie Aultman shared concerns regarding the COGS orientation this year. As she and Madison Ivan planned the orientation, they tried to involve more departments. These departments stated that they would need to piggyback the COGS orientation with the M3 orientation that was taking place the same day. However, according to feedback from the HSPA students, the morning portion was not valuable to them at all stating it was a waste of their time and that they took time off from their jobs to attend it. They were made to feel as though they weren't adult learners, but rather an afterthought. The afternoon sessions were better – more COGS specific.

Two main concerns surfaced from the orientation:

1. How graduate students are viewed by the university, and
2. How can we provide an appropriate orientation to our COGS students

Some of the issues were as follows: a long discussion about CAPP and other topics that were not appropriate for COGS students; emails not working, unsure of where the gap was with that process; students couldn't log into AIMS because of no email address. Overall the orientation was counterproductive at best.

Dr. Chris Ritter asked if it would be beneficial to have a meeting to discuss these issues with the departments involved. Dr. Julie Aultman stated she didn't think that would be beneficial, however, moving forward, she would approach the orientation differently.

Dr. Horton stated she should put together 4-5 key issues in a debriefing to present to those involved and share it with Dr. Charles Taylor.

Dr. Denise Inman presented the three points of clarification requested from the GFC regarding a new course for COGS taught by Dr/ Takhar Kasumov titled System Biology: Omics Technologies:

1. The use of samples and where they will come from
2. Assessment/grading – clarified the participation component
3. Scheduling – it is an 8-week course designed to be at the beginning or end of the semester, 3 hours each session

The number of contact hours does not line up – 24 contact hours should be worth more than 1 credit.

Dr. Chris Ritter made a motion to approve the course – asking that the contact hours be defined. Dr. Alex Galazyuk seconded the motion. The course was approved.

Dr. Hans Thewissen joined the meeting to discuss the 4<sup>th</sup> item on the agenda – a COGS CAPP process. The COGS has been asked to begin discussions around a CAPP process.

1. One CAPP process for each college
2. Once CAPP process for all three colleges, or
3. Does COGS need a CAPP process at all

Dr. Thewissen stated his recommendation is that COGS should not have a CAPP process. COGS definitely needs to have a process by which to address professionalism issues, but he isn't sure CAPP is the answer. Typically professionalism issues are handled by the dean of the college at other universities.

He also shared with the council that the current CAPP committee at NEOMED is made up of 5 COM representatives, 4 COP representatives, an M4 student, and a P4 student. The CAPP process is invasive into the private lives which is not necessary for graduate students. The individuals on the present committee have a sense of how grad schools operate as opposed to professional schools. The CAPP is a very structured and defined process that doesn't work at a college that graduates grad students – it causes more problems than benefits.

Dr. Julie Aultman asked if a COGS representative could be on the current CAPP committee when a dual degree student is facing an issue.

Dr. Ritter stated that based on Dr. Thewissen's remarks to the council, the COGS does not need a CAPP process. However, there needs to be something in place across the COGS – a basic process at the college level that can be defined more specifically at the program level.

Dr. Horton suggested a taskforce be created that will look at processes across other graduate schools to develop a process of best practices and put together a basic way to funnel up professional issues to the dean starting at the program level. Drs. Amy Lee and Julie Aultman volunteered to be on the taskforce along with Dr. Chris Ritter.

The meeting was adjourned.