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Graduate Associate Deans' Group Minutes

Graduate Council

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10-8-2020

## Graduate Associate Deans' Group Minutes - October 8, 2020

Graduate Council

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## Graduate Associate Deans Meeting (Virtual)

October 8, 2020 – Minutes

### Attending:

**Members:** Dixie Thompson (Vice-Provost & Dean), Todd Moore (Arts & Sciences) Virginia Kupritz (Communication & Information), John Stier (Herbert College of Agriculture), Sadie Hutson (Nursing), Terri Durbin (Nursing), Ozlem Kilic (Tickle College of Engineering), Sherry Cummings (Social Work), Katherine Ambroziak (Architecture), Jeff Fairbrother (Education, Health & Human Sciences); Mary Goss (Haslam College of Business); Paula Schaeffer (Law); Claudia Kirk (Vet Med)

**Ex Officio & Guests:** Yvonne Kilpatrick (Graduate School), Sean Hendricks (Graduate School), Ernest Brothers (Graduate School), Millie Cheatham (Graduate School); AnnaMaria Murphy (Graduate School); Sara Bradberry (Graduate School)

**I. Open and Welcome** – Dixie Thompson

**II. Approval of Minutes** – September 10, 2020 Approved

**III. Graduate School Updates** – Dixie Thompson

#### **Graduate Enrollment Discussion**

Dr. Thompson shared a presentation on Graduate Enrollment, with the following highlights:

- Enrollment is growing. Degrees awarded is also going up. We are enrolling people and getting them across the stage to their degrees.
- Another goal has been to grow online programs; about 20% of our graduate/prof students are in distance education programs.
- Growth trends; professional doctorates and master's degrees are showing growth trends. Enrollment in PhD programs is falling. There are some areas that may be expected, but if we are committed to growing research enterprise, we should see growth in this area.
- We are considerably smaller in enrollment to our peers and aspirational peers.
- Disappointing news is the ability to enroll African American and other minority students. We know that we have really been working to enroll under-represented students, but the needle is just not moving.
- There is a worrisome trend regarding enrollment of our international students. This was true before COVID, but certainly even more so now. We anticipate to see a little bit of a bump up when we get past COVID, but hopeful there are things we can do in marketing and recruitment to try to reverse this trend.
- Applications Submitted is the most worrisome trend; our fall 2020 class may be larger, we had a smaller number of applicants to make that class.

All data presented was generated using the Graduate Blueprint. Discussion followed regarding college perspectives and actions.

### **Fellowships**

Fellowship announcements will be going out next week. There will be a few small tweaks, but no major changes.

### **Survey to Graduate Students**

Dr. Thompson shared data from the recent survey to graduate students which asked the following questions:

1. How are you?
  - I'm fine.
  - I'm managing, but this is stressful
  - I'm struggling.
2. What issues are causing the most stress (listed and they organized).
3. What do you want administration to know about how the semester is going.

The results show that the majority are doing fine, but 18% indicate they are struggling. The top 3 stressors were (1) the inability to interact with professors and/or peers, (2) feelings of social isolation, and (3) family and/or personal issues. Departments appear to be in the best position to offer help in these areas, and many already are. Discussion followed.

## **Student Services Updates – Sara Bradberry**

### **Graduation**

Graduation Ceremonies will be held for all graduating students this year. There will not be a separate hooding ceremony for Graduate students. Communications is taking the lead on these ceremonies, and what we do know so far is that:

- Ceremonies will be combined Grad & UG and held in Thompson Boling
- There will be multiple live ceremonies over 4 days, each limited to 200 graduates
- Each grad will be limited to 4 tickets
- There is no hooding process; come hooded
- No processional or recessional
- Fall 2020 graduates will be divided by College. Each college will have an assigned day for their ceremony.
- Spring/Summer 2020 got an email this week, they can pick their preferred day/time. The system will open on the 12<sup>th</sup> for them to register for their top 3 choices.
- RSVPs will be handled by the Registrar's Office
- Students will find out which ceremony they will attend on October 28.
- A communication will go out to faculty; they cannot attend ceremony, but are encouraged to attend virtually. Ceremonies will be live streamed.

- Speakers will likely be recorded. Students will walk across the stage and pictures will be taken.

Everyone is doing the best we can with what we have since we are in COVID, but we have stressed that the ceremonies need to be inclusive of and include appropriate comments for graduate students. We will know more in the days ahead, but excited to have a live option for our students.

### **Curriculum Deadline Approaching**

Curriculum Proposals are due December 1, 2020. Contact Catherine Cox if there are questions.

### **Graduate Admissions Update – Yvonne Kilpatrick**

- The Graduate School recently hosted a DGS workshop where we shared information about the transition of our processes from Admit to Slate. One of the more challenging pieces in this process is the moving of historical data. There was concern about deadline of the end of November when decisions are not typically made until next year; we will be adjusting our deadlines accordingly.
- We are working with applicants who had not yet submitted applications in Admit, but had documents (such as letters of recommendation, especially), to move their process to Slate.
- We want to assure everyone that we will work closely with departments. We will hold training sessions, and do everything we can to make sure questions are answered and that departments have the assistance they need.
- As an FYI, there are holds for fall 2020 enrolled students who have not submitted official transcripts. We will be working with them to finalize these documents so they can move forward.

### **Professional Development Update – Ernest Brothers**

We have many opportunities available through Linked in Learning. There are nearly 12,500 videos to watch, and we are beginning to sort through those and list appropriate options for Professional Development on the GPSPD website <https://gradschool.utk.edu/training-and-mentorship/gpspd/>

No further items, meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: November 12, 2020.