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Date: Wednesday, February 20, 2019

Location: J. Ryan Building, Conference Room 204

Subject: Graduate Faculty Council (GFC) Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Mary Anne Amalaradjou, David Atkin, Janet Barnes-Farrell, Robert Bird, Christopher Blesso, Karen Bresciano (*Ex Officio)*, Zhiyi Chi, Casey Cobb, Stephen Crocker, Caroline Dealy, Valerie Duffy, Niloy Dutta, Lisa Eaton, Megan Feely, Maria-Luz Fernandez, Miguel Gomes, Kent Holsinger (*Ex Officio),* Matthew Hughey, Magdalena Kaufmann, Lawrence Klobutcher, Barbara Kream (*Ex Officio)*, Adam Lepley, Louise Lewis, Charles Mahoney, Betsy McCoach, Andrew Meguerdichian, Barbara Parziale (*Ex Officio – Secretary),* Heather Read, Joel Salisbury, Jennifer Scapetis-Tycer, Kathleen Segerson (*Ex Officio),* Anji Seth, Rachel Theodore, Judith Thorpe, Penny Vlahos, Suzanne Wilson, and Peter Zarrow.

Absent: Daniel Adler, Mehdi Anwar, Richard Anyah, Eric Brunner, Andrew Bush, Yongku Cho, Kenneth Couch, Amanda Denes, Anna Dongari-Bagtzoglou, Jane Gordon, Mitchell Green, Martin Han, Guillermo Risatti, Victoria Robinson, Alexander Russell, Beth Russell, Cristian Schulthess, Gregory Semenza, Farhed Shah, Juliette Shellman, Keith Simmons (sub for George Rossetti), Prabhakar Singh, David Solomon, Gregory Sotzing, Jiong Tang, Anastasios Tzingounis, Andrew Wiemer, and Sebastian Wogenstein.

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1. Agenda item number one (1) – Call to order. The meeting of the GFC for February 20, 2019 was called to order at 3:00 pm.
2. Agenda item number two (2) – Approval of the Minutes. The minutes of the January 23, 2019 meeting of the GFC were presented. There was a motion to accept the minutes offered, which was seconded and the motion was adopted in favor by all members present. **Agenda item number two (2) was passed unanimously without dissent.**
3. Agenda item number three (3) – Report from the Graduate Student Senate.
   1. Andrew Meguerdichian reported that the GSS was in the process of electing committee members.
4. Agenda item number four (4) – Report from the Dean
   1. Post-doc Collective Bargaining continues.
   2. There were many good applicants for the following fellowships. Offers went out to:
      1. Jorgensen 11
      2. Harriott 10
      3. Crandall 3
   3. The Survey of PhD Outcomes will take a while to be published because of technical issues. The results will probably be available next fall.
5. Agenda item number five (5) – Updates. There were no new updates.
6. Agenda item number six (6) – Old Business
   1. Changes to the GFC By-Laws – Presented for discussion and voting – Participation in Commencement (Amendment to VII.M.d). A motion was made to change Section VII.M.d of the GFC By-laws (regarding which students may participate in the Commencement ceremony) in the following way (new language in red):

*The graduate Commencement ceremony is held once each year at the end of the spring semester. ~~Individuals who have had degrees conferred at the end of the previous summer or fall semester and candidates for degrees who complete degree requirements by the end of the spring semester may participate in the annual Commencement ceremony.~~ The following students may participate in the Commencement ceremony: (1) students who are candidates for conferral of a May degree, (2) students who anticipate completing all degree requirements and being conferred their degree in August of that year, (3) students who were conferred their degree in December of the previous year, and (4) students who were conferred their degree in August of the previous year and did not participate in the Commencement ceremony the previous year. Academic regalia appropriate for the University of Connecticut degree being conferred is strictly required for all who participate in the ceremony.*

A voice vote was taken which resulted in unanimous approval. **Agenda item number six (6) was**

**passed unanimously.**

1. Agenda item number seven (7) – New business – Changes to the GFC By-laws
   1. Presented for discussion and voting – Opting-out of Foreign Language Requirement (Amendment to VII.D.a). A motion was made to change paragraph VII.D.a of the GFC by-laws (relating to opting out of the foreign language requirement) in the following way (new language in red):

*~~For all fields of study except those listed below,~~ Satisfactory completion of at least one related area or demonstrated reading reception/comprehension proficiency of at least one appropriate language other than English is required of all Ph.D. students, except in fields of study that explicitly choose not to require this of their students.*

*~~Fields of study that require neither a related area nor demonstrated reading knowledge or reception/comprehension proficiency of a language other than English currently include: Biomedical Engineering, Biomedical Science, Cell Biology, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Economics, Educational Leadership, Educational Psychology, Environmental Engineering, Human Development and Family Studies, Learning, Leadership and Education Policy, Linguistics, Materials Science, Materials Science and Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Molecular and Cell Biology, Pathobiology, Philosophy, Physics, Plant Science, Political Science, Psychological Sciences, Public Health, and Statistics.~~*

The motion was seconded. A very brief discussion ensued and the motion met unanimous approval. **Agenda item number seven a (7.a) was passed unanimously.**

* 1. Presented for discussion – Inclusion of Undergraduate Courses on Graduate Plans-of-Study (Section VII.A.a and VII.A.e). A lengthy discussion ensued about the term “advanced” coursework. There is a discrepancy in the wording of this section that needs to be resolved but the question is how? It was determined that “advanced” coursework needs to be defined. The section needs to say that a limited amount of 3000 – 4000 courses will be allowed, but more clearly specify exactly how much since the six credit limit can create problems for plans of study with more than 30 credits.
  2. Presented for discussion – Application to certificate programs by current UConn students. Current GFC by-laws state that currently matriculated UConn students must apply for admission to a certificate program in a term before all the required courses for this certificate are completed. The question here is whether they need to apply before doing the certificate courses or can they apply for the certificate after they have finished the coursework.

1. There was a motion offered for adjournment, which was seconded. The motion was passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm.
2. The next regular meeting of the GFC is scheduled for March 13, 2019 in the J. Ryan Building, Conference Room 204.