



# THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

## GRADUATE COUNCIL Meeting Notes

Wednesday, March 24, 2021 from 12-1:30 via zoom

Attendees: Avilez, Cohen, Dasgupta, Fetter, Gao, Gold, Haring, Julin, Kim, Laffin, Lawley, Mullin, Moser Jones, Turner, Sayer, Shea, Sheaff, Sprinkle, Vera, Washington, Xie

*GS Staff and Ex Officio: Ambrosi, Beise, Enekwe, Enriquez, Fisher Liu, Gittens, O'Connell, Roberts, Strausser, van Son, Warrick-Bell, Woodwell*

### AGENDA

1. Welcome

Dean Fetter welcomed everyone at 12:01 PM.

Dean Fetter also notes that they have suspended the issue of the GA stipend policy.

2. Approve [2/9 meeting minutes](#)

- a. The 2/9 Graduate Council Meeting minutes were unanimously agreed upon with no corrections.

3. Updates and announcements

a. [Update on TerpEngage](#)

- The backlog has been greatly reduced since the last meeting and the GS team is working to reduce the number of approved applications.
- The turnaround time for response is now less than 48 hours.
- If offers are made this week the GS will send it out by the 15th of April.
- A member notes a technical problem regarding letters of reference sometimes not being attached to an application file
  1. Issue is most apparent when sharing the files with those not on the application (i.e. sending it to other faculty members to find applicants GA positions).
  2. Working on a workflow which would fix this however it would incur a small charge for every application PDF that is printed.
  3. Multiple departments say that this prohibits the way which they review applications and have therefore had to create work arounds.
    - a. Shadow workflows should be avoided as they could create a data breach.
  4. Grad school anticipated that departments would work within the system and not generate a PDF (especially not multiple PDFs of the same application).
- There is a lot of flexibility in theory to adapt the system to the GS needs.



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- b. COVID vaccine eligibility for GAs (same as faculty/staff policy [here](#))
- Dean Fetter had previously sent a message to the CGS and DGS regarding this.
  - More details regarding Fall 2021 should come from the school in April. Here are the tentative details:
    1. Students will be expected to return to campus (if all goes to plan) which has implications for international students.
      - a. US Consulates are still closed in certain countries which may cause issues (ISSS is monitoring this closely).
    2. Those who began remotely must come in person and all remote opportunities are stopping.
      - a. This may have to be resolved on a case by case basis.
        - i. If students are unable to get a Visa, the Graduate School may have to ask that they take a leave of absence.
    3. Dissertation defenses will return to old rules (except for case by case exceptions).
      - a. Written guidance is currently being prepared by the graduate school.
    4. The Graduate School is currently operating on the assumption that there will be no required accommodation for remote participation..
      - a. There will be more clarity on what constitutes an accommodation soon.
        - i. HR and ADS will be working on developing the policy regarding this.
        - ii. It is already established that students already have a right to a medical accommodation which may be relevant to covid.
- c. [TerpTax](#):
- Is currently open and accepting virtual appointments to help all graduate students (particularly international) file state and federal tax returns for free. They will remain open through May 17.
- d. International and candidacy tuition fellowships and COVID delay fellowship
- Will continue to provide fellowships for those whose dissertation has been delayed by COVID.
    1. Must be of students of advanced candidacy and dissertation research has been delayed by the pandemic .



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- a. 20 were awarded in the fall. Are awarded to students at the nomination of the program.
      - b. During the academic year these are cost shared and the graduate school pays for them in the summer.
      - c. These are only available for those who do not have department funding.
        - i. This is not used as a way to shift costs from one founding source to another.
    2. To be used for those whose lack of funding is directly related to the pandemic.
  - e. CRRSAA/HEERF-II emergency grants
    - University is still waiting for their allocation.
    - As soon as money is received there will be automatic rewards for undergraduate students and there also will be an application for graduate students.
    - Graduate School will use these funds for international students who cannot receive these grants but meet the same requirements as those who get federal fund grants.
  - f. [Doctoral Career Pathways Conference](#) - April 30
    - Registration will open on April 1
  - g. [Remote defenses review](#); planning for Fall 2021
    - Provides overview of feedback from students and committee members.
  - h. Correction to academic deadlines for changes, withdrawals and drops
    - Undergraduate policy was not originally intended for graduate policy.
    - Worked with registrar to update the website to clarify that this does not apply to graduate students
  - i. [Alumni Placement For UMDCP](#)
    - Dean Fetter recommends that each program looks at their programs data.
    - Currently talking to other BIG10 schools to work together and compare each school's data (about 6 universities have something similar to this).
    - Associate deans have access to individual alumni responses.
4. Action Items
- a. Vote - [Master's Residence Credit Requirement](#) (UMD login required)
    - Would require that students must take 50% of required credits at the University of Maryland after being admitted to the program.
    - This requirement will make it so the Graduate School is in line with peers and undergraduate policy.
    - Does not override individual programs which may have stricter policies.
    - This was unanimously passed by Graduate Council.
5. Future Discussion



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The meeting adjourned at TIME 12:52 PM

As a reminder, the Graduate Council will meet April 19: 1-2:30, which is the last meeting of the semester.

***These minutes were unanimously approved at the 4/19/21 Graduate Council Meeting.***