



GRADUATE COUNCIL Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 10, 2019, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm, Maryland Room

In attendance: Fetter (chair), Sayer (cochair), Long, Avilez, Beise, McIver, Dawkins, Xie, Cohen, Waguespack, Jiang, Zhu, Sprinkle, Fernandez, Klauda, Kleman, Green, Rappeport, Jarzynski, Lawley, John Shea, Washington

Staff: Strausser, Ambrosi, Kotzker, Oguntolu, White

1. Welcome and introductions
 - a. We started the meeting at 11:35.
 - b. Dean Fetter welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the AY19-20. Thank you to everyone for agreeing to serve in this capacity. Special welcome to all of the new councilors.
2. Approval of minutes of 4/23/19 meeting
 - a. Meeting minutes were approved with no changes.
3. Announcements
 - a. Graduate School personnel changes: assistant dean, communications director, IT, counselor
 - i. Jeffrey Franke has left the Graduate School. Any issues that you would have gone to Jeff, please contact Steve. A search for this position will begin soon.
 - ii. Laurie White (lawwhite@umd.edu) started as the Graduate School's Communication Officer.
 - iii. We are looking to hire an IT staff member to help with the implementation of the new admissions system.
 - iv. We are also working to hire a Graduate Academic Counselor. This person is going to be a case worker to help manage the academic aspects of students experiencing any challenges or difficulties. Linda Macri (lmacri@umd.edu) is the chair of the search, so please contact her with any questions.
 - b. Red Folder (see attached)
 - i. We will be printing 2000 of these to give out across campus. We will also be posting the folder on the Graduate School website. We will share that link when it is available.
 - c. Faculty-Student Research Award information session 3:30-5 pm Sep 10; deadline Oct 1
 - i. We are launching a new award- the Faculty-Student Research Award (FSRA).
 1. The wide variety of faculty research, scholarship, and creative projects on campus provide unique opportunities to mentor and support graduate



- students. The FSRA provides \$10,000 to support a faculty project that directly involves graduate students.
2. This takes the place of the RASA and CAPAA awards.
- ii. There is a new award program Independent Scholarship, Research and Creativity Awards (ISRCA) from VPR which is more like the past versions of RASA CAPPA.
 1. For more information about this award, go here:
<https://research.umd.edu/development/independent-scholarship-research-and-creativity-awards-isrca-0>
 - iii. A councilor asked what types of things could the FSRA fund.
 1. This could help purchase equipment that a student might use in their research. It could also help with travel for the student to go to a conference or collect data somewhere. It could also help fund a graduate assistant. We look forward to seeing what proposals are submitted.
 2. If you have any questions, contact Robyn Kotzker at (rkotzker@umd.edu).
- d. Hanover Research grantsmanship services (see attached)
- i. The Graduate School has contracted with the Hanover Research Consulting Group to help graduate students successfully apply for and receive funding from prestigious external fellowships.
 - ii. Part of the contract are 90 minute webinars. Students can participate in these webinars either live or they can view the recording after the webinar- we will post them on the Graduate School website.
 1. Sept 25 at noon- webinar for STEM and STEM related fields.
 2. October 8 at noon- webinar for Humanities and Social Sciences.
 - iii. We get 20 1:1 consultations for students working on grants. If you have any students who would be interested in this, please contact Robyn Kotzker at rkotzker@umd.edu.
- e. Doctoral program milestones in uAchieve; Graduate Faculty clean-up
- i. We have been using uAcheive for masters degrees audits. We are now extending this to PhD programs. This will help students see what milestones have been accomplished and what still needs to be done.
 - ii. We are working on cleaning up the graduate faculty list in the graduate catalog. There are some inconsistencies between the PHR system and the graduate catalog and we want those records to match.
- f. Writing center update
- i. The biggest change is that the Writing Center is expanding its offering to include oral communications services such as 1:1 consultations, workshops and seminars. Please check their website for more information:
<https://gradschool.umd.edu/graduate-school-writing-center>
- g. Events:
- i. Candidacy Tea: Nov 18 / May ??, 4-6 pm, University House
 1. Beginning last year, we started offering an event for students who reach



candidacy. This is a nice opportunity to get doctoral students together and celebrate this milestone. The November Candidacy Tea is to celebrate all doctoral students who reached candidacy between June-November 2019.

- ii. Celebration of Doctoral Graduates: Dec 11 / May 11, 12-2 pm, Riggs
 1. This is a luncheon celebration to celebrate doctoral graduates. Dean Fetter has asked for a name of a speaker for the luncheon. It would be very helpful if anyone could please provide names for people that are local. If you could introduce them, that would be great.
- iii. Fellowship and Award Celebration: May 13, 3-5 pm, Grand Ballroom Lounge, Stamp
- iv. GradTerp Exchange: Oct 8 / Nov 12 / Dec 3, 5-7 pm, MilkBoy
 1. <https://gradschool.umd.edu/gradterpexchange>

4. Health insurance for graduate students

- a. Undergraduate students have a requirement to have health insurance, but there is no requirement for graduate students.
- b. Most of our Big10 peers require that international students have insurance, but we do not have this requirement in place.
- c. Dr. David McBride has raised this issue about the health insurance requirement for graduate students. Each year we hear of a few graduate students, particularly international students, end up getting quite sick and they are left with large medical bills.
- d. Dean Fetter discussed the document that was distributed ahead of the meeting.
- e. Students are eligible for SHIP which is a bargain at \$1300 for single coverage. This is a platinum level plan under the Affordable Care Act. The Health Center offers services with no deductible or copay if students use SHIP.
- f. Dean Fetter opened the meeting up to have discussions related to this issue.
 - i. If you have any feedback about health insurance for graduate students, please let Dean Fetter know.
 - ii. We discussed the advantages and disadvantages of having the requirement just be for international students versus requiring it for both domestic and international students. We also discussed the impact of this requirement on unfunded students.
 - iii. The councilors would like to see more data about graduate students' choice of coverage.
 - iv. We currently do not have a way of knowing why graduate students do not have health insurance. We could do a survey of graduate students and ask them why or why not they have insurance.
 1. We could ask if they are covered then how and then if they do not have



insurance, then they why.

- v. Fetter plans to share the data at the next meeting. We will resume this discussion then.
 - g. If you have students receiving a stipend of \$17,500 or higher and distributed in the same year, the Graduate School will reimburse for the cost of SHIP (\$1300). For more information go here: <https://gradschool.umd.edu/funding/fellowship-information/health-insurance-information> We understand that students are turning down fellowships for health insurance reasons and we do not want that. We urge them to consider SHIP and we will reimburse them for that.
 - a. The minimum 9.5 month stipend is equal to the cost of attendance (which is computed by the Office of Student Financial Aid) for UMD students and that includes the \$1300 cost for SHIP.
5. Career outcomes for doctoral graduates and alumni
- a. Survey of Earned Doctorates
 - i. There have been a lot of conversations around tracking what jobs alumni take after graduation. There has been a shift in alumni going into academia or taking another route (private, foundations, nonprofits, etc).
 - ii. There is a push for institutions to publish data about the graduate outcomes.
 - iii. All we have is the "Survey of Earned Doctorate" that is organized by the NSF. We have very limited data because they only ask about their job right after they graduate.
 - iv. Many other Big10 schools collect data every 10 or 15 years to see where graduates are working and information related to that position. Since many other Big10 universities are doing this, so we could compare data across colleges or programs.
 - b. Proposal to collect and publish data
 - i. Dean Fetter discussed the option of having a vendor collect data for our graduates. Cost depends on whether we collect data on PhD graduates or all graduate alumni, and the frequency of collection. Most institutions are collecting annual data over a 10-year period.
 - ii. One aspect of this that Dean Fetter wanted to discuss with GC is related to publishing this data. We will want to consider what data should be published and concerns around that.
6. Possible agenda items for AY19-20
- a. Doctoral student funding and program size
 - b. Policy on PhD exams
 - c. Dean's Fellowship funding formula



- d. TLTC training and certification of teaching assistants
 - e. Responsible conduct of research training
 - f. Internships for Ph.D. students
 - g. Graduate Outcomes Assessment
 - h. gradSERU
 - i. GA time-use study
 - j. GA policy on additional work
 - k. Others?
7. We discussed possible agenda items for the coming year.
 8. Additional topics?
 - a. Mandatory fees for graduate students.
 - b. Tuition remission and differential fees.
 - c. New policy on tuition remission for 899 credits.
 9. The meeting adjourned at 1:05pm.
 10. The next meetings are on October 15 from 1:30-3:00pm and November 12 from 9:30-11:00am- both held in the Maryland Room (0100) in Marie Mount Hall.