

## UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL

### MINUTES

February 19, 2025

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

LJH 325

#### Council in Attendance:

Marc Giullian (Business)  
Rollin Beamish (Arts)  
Kari Perry (Student Representative)  
Anna French (Student Representative)  
Rob Maher (Faculty Senate)  
Catherine Dunlop (Letters)  
Stephan Warnat (Engineering)  
Chris Livingston (Architecture)  
Sarah Mannheimer (Library)  
Amy Reines (Sciences)  
Sweeney Windchief (Education)  
Ryan Thum (Agriculture)  
Akash Gulati (Student Representative)  
Deborah Haynes (Interim Dean of The Graduate School)

#### Also in Attendance:

Emily Peters (Graduate School)

#### Absent

Wade Hill (Nursing)  
Brennan Reeves (Office of International Programs)  
Katey Franklin (Health & Human Development)

#### Meeting started at 10:02 a.m.

#### **February 5, 2025 minutes**

- Motion to approve by Beamish, Giullian 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimous approval, motion passes

#### **Announcements**

- Graduate School update
  - Federal funding updates
    - 489 GTAs on campus; primarily paid out of state funds. As far as we know, GTA funding is not going to be impacted.

- 444 GRAs on campus. The majority of GRAs are funded through designated grant positions (not IDCs).
- Currently only NIH has notified us of IDC rate cuts (40% to 15%), but this hasn't happened yet. Currently working through the potential impacts.
- DOD, HHS, USDA, and NSF are the largest federal funding partners for MSU
- Questions/Comments
  - How many grants have been cut?
    - Aware of a few notices related to DEI or sustainability
  - Is there a contingency plan for funding?
    - The proposed NIH cuts equate to a \$10 million hit for MSU. There are no backup funds to cover that amount.
  - Is there a chart available that shows where IDCs go?
    - Yes, Alison Harmon sent out an email with this information.
  - Are there contingency plans for expanding GTA positions?
    - Looking into this possibility
  - Active faculty TT searches, startup packages have been greatly cutback
  - Discussion on uncertainty and impacts on research. What can we do
    - On your personal time and resources can express your opinions to your representatives
  - Washington State University has a good summary of what different federal agencies are currently doing. Warnat will share with council.
- Wellness Week
  - Around 200 graduate students attended the community dinner
  - About 30 students attended rec game night
- Faculty Senate update
  - Faculty Senate concerned about federal funding uncertainty. Guidance is that Alison Harmon is the point of contact for any questions.
    - Concern about the F&A aspect of the funding. Impacting new faculty hires. It is impacting all universities nationwide.
    - President Crusado has been in communication with the congressional delegation.
  - Unverified information floating around immigration and customs enforcement activity. As far as the administration is concerned, these reports are not true. Any concerns about ICE raids should be taken to Dean of Students Matt Caires.
    - OIP communicates with ICE. Have been told they are focusing on criminal elements (e.g., human trafficking and drug trafficking).
      - Discussion of concerns felt by international students. Being targeted off campus and questioned about legal status.
        - Our international students are legally here.
        - Some guidance on how students should handle this could be helpful.
    - Renaming of Office of Access and Success.
      - Search was in process to hire a new director of the student commons. Was this search paused?

- Yes, Barbara Do Amaral is going to stay on longer. Uncertainty of how it will be handled going forward.

## Old Business

- University Graduate Council Bylaws
  - College of Nursing request for NTT representative on UGC: limited number of TT faculty members
    - Clarification that CON does have 8 new TT positions planned with the Mark and Robyn Jones donation, but have not received the funding for those lines yet.
  - Discussion
    - What is the proposal?
      - CON requested to have NTT member serve on UGC. Potential options:
        - Allow NTT member on UGC, requires we change our bylaws
        - Allow a limited one-time exception for proposed NTT member. Encourage the college to hire more TT.
        - Could also allow NTT member to attend as non-voting member
    - Curious what the NTT faculty would have to say about it. NTT rate of pay, cost of living, obligations as NTT faculty member.
      - College stated they will write it into the faculty member's contract as a service obligation that would receive additional compensation.
    - Concern this sets a precedent. Impacts academic freedom.
      - Think it should be a very narrow special exception
    - Warnat will invite a College of Nursing representative to discuss the proposal at the next meeting
- Dismissed v. suspended language
  - Suspended is the language OCHE uses in written documents. UGC has been concerned that suspension sounds like the student can be readmitted after a certain amount of time. The way we are using this means they are dismissed.
  - Legal has said we can say suspended (permanently dismissed)
  - What do we want the policy to say? Do we want students to be able to return?
    - Some situations when students return after a significant amount of time.
      - In rare extenuating circumstances, the department could ask for an exception
  - Warnat, Peters, Haynes, and policy subcommittee meet to align the policies
    - Can have Jennifer Gladd review or attend a subsequent meeting
    - What do other universities do?
      - Differentiate academic versus non-academic suspensions
        - Require some element of unfairness in grounds to appeal

Subcommittee updates

Public comment

Adjourned at 10:52 am

Next scheduled meeting – March 5, 2025