

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes September 27, 2024

Present:

Dr. Daniel Lin, Group I
Dr. Shiping Deng, Group I
Dr. Sarah Foss, Group II
Dr. Graig Uhlin, Group II
Dr. Jessie Mao, Group III
Dr. Kevin Moore, Group III

Dr. Peter Richtsmeier, Group IV
Dr. Stephen Nemeth, Group IV
Dr. Kat Gardner-Vandy, Group V
Dr. Joshua Butcher, Group VI
Dr. David Wallace, Group V

Guests: Dr. Randy Kluver, OSU Global and Marcia Sun, GPSGA

Graduate College:

Dr. Melanie Morgan, Chair & Dean
Dr. Rebecca Sheehan, Interim Associate Dean
Dr. Matt Lovern, Associate Dean

Dr. Sheehan called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

International Recruitment – Dr. Randy Kluver, OSU Global presented statistics and information on International recruitment with a handout. He reported that a new task force has been created to explore International enrollment and recruiting and to develop a long-term strategy to increase the enrollment.

Approval of Minutes – A motion to approve the August 23, 2024 meeting minutes was made by Dr. Richtsmeier and seconded by Dr. Mao. The motion was approved.

APC Items – Dr. Lovern gave a brief description of the APC item; Forensic weapons of Mass Destruction Investigation Graduate Certificate. A motion was made by Dr. Butcher to accept the new program and the motion passed.

GPSGA Report - In the wake of the pandemic, the GPSGA faced significant challenges in reconnecting and supporting our graduate and professional student community. Over the past 2-3 years, we implemented several programs and initiatives to rebuild a sense of belonging and better serve our members. Below are highlights of key initiatives and the impact they have had on our community.

Updates of GPSGA's New Initiatives and Milestones
For the General GPSGA Community:

- Ambassador Program: Established to cultivate future leaders, welcoming four ambassadors over the past two years.

- GroupMe Social Group Expansion: Increased membership from 9 to 143 members over two years, fostering greater resource sharing and student engagement.
- Recognition Awards: Introduced the Perfectly Present and Exemplary Committee Member Awards, recognizing 60 members over the last two years.
- GPSGA Linktree: Activated to centralize access to resources over the last two years.
- Award Increases: Expanded funding for Research Material Grants, Travel Assistance, and Co-Sponsorship Awards, benefiting 633 students—417 in 2022-2023 and 217 in 2023-2024. Travel Assistance Awards increased from \$100 in 2021 to four tiers (\$200, \$300, \$400, and \$600) with support from the Graduate College.
- GPSGA Graduation Stoles: Implemented a checkout system for members to use graduation stoles over the past two years.
- Professional Development: Sponsored and hosted six hybrid professional development sessions in collaboration with campus partners, benefiting over 120 students over the past year.
- Graduate Community Engagement: Increased engagement at monthly assembly meetings through interactive activities and presentations on critical topics delivered by invited speakers.
- New GPSGA Banner: Launched a new banner to improve visibility and promotion.
- Graduate Education Week Events: Sponsored events, promoted resources, engaged graduate alumni, and supported the undergraduate research symposium.
- Phoenix Awards Expansion: Increased the Faculty Mentor Award to recognize outstanding mentorship. Expanded access to the Phoenix Awards to four categories across both the Fall and Spring semesters.
- Volunteering: Actively participated in Into the Streets and Angel Trees, with nearly 50 volunteers contributing over 50 hours of service each semester. Volunteering was also offered as a make-up attendance option for meetings.
- In-person Welcome Reception and Hybrid General Assemblies: Reintroduced in 2022, with remarks from Graduate College leadership, interactive activities, and dinner, engaging with over 300 graduate and professional students. The hybrid format includes representation from the OKC and Tulsa campuses.
- Award Application Optimization: Simplified forms and requirements to streamline the application process.
- Lead4Success Promotion: Supported leadership development by sponsoring graduate representatives' participation in the program for the past three years.
- New Student Organizations: Supported the creation of five new graduate groups under the GPSGA umbrella, expanding representation to nearly 70 organizations.
- Campus Advocacy: Contributed to advocacy efforts that led to a GTA stipend increase in Fall 2022 and a 35% reduction in CEAT fees in Fall 2024. Ongoing efforts include extending OSU shuttle hours.
- Capital Cowboys Advocacy: Supported this initiative to advocate for the graduate community at the state level, engaging with Oklahoma legislators.
- GPSGA Impact Report: Launched to document key milestones and share updates with the community.
- Key Speakers: Surveyed assembly members to guide speaker selection over the past three years.

For Board Member Development:

- Team Building & Appreciation Events: Organized 2-3 team-building events annually to foster collaboration among board members.

- Officer Recognition: Provided name tags, polos, graduation stoles, and service awards to honor board members at the Graduate College ceremony.
- Leadership Development Day: Co-hosted with the ISO to enhance leadership skills and promote professional growth.

For more details, please refer to the GPSGA Impact Report, which will be available on Canvas.

GPSGA & OMA OSU LeadWeek Event: Leadership Workshop on Intercultural Competency
GPSGA in collaboration with the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA), present an OSU LeadWeek Leadership Workshop on Inclusive Leadership Through Cultural Competency.
Thursday, October 3 in Willard 241, 5:30 PM - 6:45 PM

Highlights:

- Learn to foster inclusive leadership in diverse contexts.
- Develop intercultural competency skills.
- Network with peers and campus leaders.
- Enjoy pizza, giveaways, and more!

GPSGA-Related Updates:

- Straw Poll Survey: A brief survey was distributed to gather preferences for topics and speakers to be featured at future general assemblies.
- Monday Memo (GPSGA Section): Highlighted the importance of the Monday Memo for staying informed about key dates, award and funding application deadlines, and membership forms. Additionally, solicited suggestions for new content to better serve the community.
- Critical Topics for the Graduate and Professional Community: A feedback form will be distributed at the next general assembly meeting to collect input on pressing topics affecting the graduate and professional community.

Graduate College Report

Plan of Study and Clearance for Degree – Dr. Morgan explained that Round Up will be rebuilt to increase accuracy and efficiency.

Graduate Faculty Status – Dr. Sheehan lead a brief discussion about Graduate Faculty Status occurred. Going forward, this will be handled in Slate.

ISS Director – ISS has a new director, Elisabeth Walker. I-20 issuance will now be taken care of through OSU Global.

Enrollment – Dr. Lovern reported that enrollment is up with College of Health Science having more graduate students than any other program.

Old Business

Subject Matter Group Elections – Groups III, IV & V have vacancies. Group III will be holding an election to fill their vacant Vice Chair position. Group IV will be holding an election to fill

the vacant Secretary position. Group V has sent their Qualtrics poll for their election of the vacant Vice Chair position and are awaiting results.

Graduate Faculty Database – Dr. Sheehan opened discussion on the status of the database. There is no central location for new hires.

New Business

Graduate College Associate Dean – Dr. Morgan announced Dr. Sheehan is the permanent Associate Dean in the Graduate College. Previous duties are being shifted due to this employment action and Dr. Lovern will now hand new programs and APC items.

Leave of Absence Policy – Dr. Sheehan opened discussion of LOA policy. Currently, this policy has a 1 year maximum, requires a letter from the program and the student must be in good academic standing.

A motion was made by Dr. Richtsmeier to modify the policy so that a student does not need to be in good standing the semester prior to the leave request. The motion was seconded by Dr. Lin. The motion passed.

Signature Form – Dr. Sheehan reported the preferred format of the signature form is digital. The Graduate College will continue to accept wet and digital copies of this document through the Fall 2024 semester. The digital any forms should be sent from the advisor/chair directly to grad-academici@okstate.edu. In Spring 2025, the signature form will be fully digital and should be sent to the same email address.

D-Can Status – The Graduate College added calendar deadline for reduced hours for the next semester. The new deadline for reduced enrollment is 2 weeks prior to semester beginning.

Thesis/Dissertation Deposit Deadline – The Priority Deadline will become the real deadline. This moves the date up by approximately 2 weeks. The other deadline will be eliminated.

Graduate Coordinator/Director/Staff Training will be the first week of October.

Fall 2024 General Graduate Faculty Zoom Meeting – scheduled for October 23rd at 1:30.

The Graduate College will hold Drop-in Zoom Office Hours once per week. See Monday Memos for each week's drop-in hours.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. Lin and seconded by Dr. Deng. Meeting adjourned at 2:59.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:58 was made by Dr. Moore and seconded by Dr. Deng. The motion was approved.