

CGC Meeting

January 12, 2017

Present: Danielle Devoss (WRAC), Lisa Schwartzman (PHL), Danny Mendez (RCS), Shannon Schweitzer (THR), Blake Williams (AAHD), Charlene Polio (LIN, SLS), Zarena Aslami (ENG), Kristen Rowe (student representative), Jessica Kane (student representative), William Hart-Davidson (Associate Dean)

Approvals of December minutes and agenda: Professor Williams indicated a change of the agreement regarding Art's deadline for University fellowships. Associate Dean Hart-Davidson said he would get together with her later and discuss the wording for the change in December's minutes.

Approval for minutes was tabled until next meeting, as the correct month's minutes were not sent.

Announcements

1. FS16 courses authorized but not offered, or offered but not authorized—Hart-Davidson told the group this had been sent initially from Joy Speas, University Curriculum Administrator. Associate Dean Contreras forwarded this information to chairs. The group requested that Hart-Davidson forward the original e-mail, which contains the courses from Ms. Speas, to which he agreed. Associate Dean Contreras asked the chairs to review the past three years, and bring any changes to the February meeting. Hart-Davidson said he would like the Graduate Council to do so as well.
2. Competition Deadlines—Hart-Davidson reviewed the list of competition deadlines: AAGA and DCF (Monday, February 13); SCRAM, Varg-Sullivan and Summer Support nominations to College (Friday, March 3); College deadline for fellowships on Graduate Office Funds (Friday, March 24); and Inclusive/diverse recruitment (formerly ATA) activity reports due to College. Professors DeVoss and Schwartzman said they had applied for funds and had not heard anything back. Hart-Davidson said he would look into the amount given, and get back with them. Professor Mendez had a few questions regarding the criteria for a published work, and there was some discussion as to how the awards are determined. Professor Williams said that information in the nominating letter describing the student's work is very helpful to the sub-committee's deliberations.

Discussion Items

1. Summer Support Fellowships—fewer fellowships for higher dollar amount per student: Hart-Davidson began by telling the committee that the number of awards has been based on each unit's number of recruits. They should know every year how many they are going to have; for example, at present, the units are poised to receive the same number as last year. The amount allocated from the Graduate School has not increased significantly in the past few years. He proposed to the group that he could consider either a small increase in the amount from \$4500 to \$5000 and could give approximately the same number of awards as in the past few years, or increase it by a few thousand dollars, but that would proportionately decrease the number of awards for everyone. The consensus of the group is that they would appreciate a small increase to the award, but they would prefer to keep the number of awards the same, since they really rely on it for their students. A few commented that they figured that the awardees would still work, but the award would be a help, but not replace a summer adjunct job. Professor Aslami

commented that summer adjuncts are paid \$5400, and was wondering if there was a way to raise the award amount to that. Hart-Davidson replied that he didn't have any additional funds, but that was a relatively small amount, so perhaps she could approach her chair on that? He also said ideally, award recipients should not be working, but in reality, as Professor Polio pointed out, people will still work as an adjunct or take on some other job during the summer. He asked the two student representatives their thoughts, and they agreed that the amount was not enough to keep people from working, but would be enough for them to work less.

2. GradInfo Data request—Hart-Davidson passed around a handout of CAL Grad Ph.D. Placement which showed from 2011-16. At present, 25% of Ph.D. placement shows no data. The dean ideally wants to have placement data on all students. He further explained that the dean wants to use the placement data and work backward, such as time to degree, in order to ascertain where to put more effort and funding. The number of people who placed in tenure-track Ph.D. granting institutions and non-tenure-track Ph.D. granting institutions was approximately 21% for each. Only 4% placed in tenure-track MA/BA/International institutions, which was a smaller number than Hart-Davidson originally thought. Another 4% placed in non-tenure track MA/BA institutions, 6% in two-year institutions, 15% in other (such as GMOs); and 4% in post-docs. He also told the group about a possibility of hiring a company to survey graduates as to placement, and people expressed interest. He asked if there was other data that would be useful. Ms. Fox asked if there was data on why students choose to attend MSU, and Hart-Davidson said that was probably based unit by unit. Hart-Davidson said he will have a more complete report for the committee next month.

Roundtable

Mendez commented that for his unit, there was an expectation of having to translate documents into English. He said it was an issue for translating writing samples. Schwartzman said the statement of purpose and letters of recommendation have to be translated, but the University fellowships have never asked for writing samples.

Williams asked if it was necessary to rank applicants, and Hart-Davidson said no.

Aslami asked regarding the RCR, if people enrolled from last year, would they be “grandfathered” in, and Hart-Davidson said yes. Hart-Davidson said another question regarding RCR from Linguistics was about changing the modules. Units can change their modules, but there's no deadline for it, just let the College know, and they will submit the changes.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.