

CGC Meeting

February 9, 2017

Present: Glenn Chambers (AAAS), Danielle Devoss (WRAC), Lisa Schwartzman (PHL), Danny Mendez (RCS), Karen Kangas-Preston (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: Minutes of January 12—Add Professor Aslami to the January roster. Minutes and today's agenda were approved.

Discussion Items:

- a. Graduate School e-mail regarding Executive Order: Associate Dean Hart-Davidson sent out an e-mail query to the group asking if they have any affected students from the seven countries listed in the President's Executive Order. Judith Stoddart, interim dean of the Graduate School, has reached out to the student in the affected unit in the College. Plans are being made for other students across the university, to try and find them summer employment, so they can stay in the country. He commented that the administrative and staff response has been very positive.
- b. Question about external members to dissertation committees: Professor Mendez brought up that the current requirements by the Graduate School seem onerous. Professor Schwartzman is on the University Committee for Graduate Studies (UCGS), and this is one item they have been asked to address. This also includes non-MSU faculty, non-tenure MSU faculty and specialists as well. The good news is that once a person has been approved, they never have to go through the process again. Professor Polio asked if it is possible to find out who is on the list, and Hart-Davidson said that information is on GradInfo. Suggestions were made as to how to make the application materials less of a burden. Professor Williams was at the UCGS meeting, and this topic came up. She said our college has quite a few adjunct faculty/non-tenure track/specialists, in part because of the economy several years ago. Hart-Davidson pointed out that in very small programs, students have no choice but to go outside MSU. As an example, the Department of Theatre usually bundles the ones they want, since it is usually the same two to three people each year for all the students there. An issue that was discussed was that MSU faculty have to sign a conflict of interest statement, and non-MSU specialists, including faculty and those in business, are not so bound. Professor Devoss offered to write up a recommendation as discussed, eliminating the multiple letters and statement of willingness, for Professor Schwartzman to suggest to UCGS. Hart-Davidson offered to contact Chair Kirk Domer in Theatre, to ask for a sample of a letter that he sends to The Graduate School for this when he bundles his faculty requests.
- c. Dissertation Completion Fellowships (DCF)—Professor Polio asked when ranking the candidates, is the sub-committee supposed to look at quality or how close the student is to finishing their degree? And does the student's time to degree come into play when making deliberations? Professor Devoss asked if the departments are expected to rank their candidates, since that's not on any of the nominating materials on the website. Hart-Davidson said yes, that is asked that units rank their DCF applicants. He also commented that by linking a unit's sustainability funds to admits, in theory, at some point, every unit should be able to grant DCFs.

- d. Graduate Performance Report—Hart-Davidson thanked the group for contributing data toward this placement report. There were only 5 graduates out of 140 graduates that were not accounted for. Interesting points: 1. our students are generally employed. The percentage of tenure-track to non is almost equal, and true in both Ph.D. granting and non-granting institutions. Professor Aslami pointed out that English has five in tenure-track positions, which is not totally reflected, but she will send Hart-Davidson an update. Assumptions have been made over the years about placing graduates in non-tenure granting institutions, and that is not accurate. We are also seeing in this five year snapshot, that there is a relatively low percentage of graduates still looking for placement. Most are placed within two years of graduation. He said he is interested in the group's views of what isn't represented here. The Provost sees the bare bones on GradInfo. This sort of report is what the Dean and Hart-Davidson use in part for strategic planning.

Median Time to Degree (TTD)—systemically, the college is doing well. On the average, the median time to degree, including those who enter with B.A.s, is approximately six years. Generally our programs are lower than the national average. Actually the time has crept up a bit since the last report, which indicates the fact that English, American Studies, and Philosophy have succeeded in graduating some of their long term students.

He went on to explain the next metric, which indicates in the last ten years, approximately 57% completed a doctoral degree in less than six years. Including students currently enrolled, 95% of CAL PhD students have completed or are on track to complete their degree in fewer than six years. Some discussion ensued regarding extension procedures in the college and by the Graduate School.

He also reviewed the diversity efforts. It's too early to tell if the change in this year's enrollment pattern as opposed to the previous three will drastically change that dynamic. He said the dean asked him to dig a little deeper in the placement information for how many people are using their degree in a research career, is their position transitional in some way, etc. When Dean Long was at Penn State, he and his dean published a ten-year placement snapshot of their graduates in the "Chronicle of Higher Education." The policy that has been in the past few years will most likely hold, in that the College is not looking to grow programs. But, more money can be invested per student. Graduate programs are more student oriented now versus faculty oriented, which they were in the past. He also said that units are being asked to do a two percent budget cut this year, per the last meeting with the president. There hasn't been a lot of request for new GA lines, but there have been some requests to convert current GA lines to the new practicum program. Professor Polio asked if Tech GA lines would be continued, and he said yes. He was made aware that the MFA programs don't have any tech GAs, and that is in the pipeline. The new editorial GA lines will also continue.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00.