

CGC Meeting

September 10, 2015

Present: Lisa Schwartzman (PHL), Charlene Polio (L&L), Sue Gass (SLS), Hima Rawal (student representative), Blake Williams (AAHD), Zarena Aslami (ENG), Kristie Dotson (AAAS), Malea Powell (WRAC), Shannon Schweitzer (THR), Rocio Quispe-Agnoli (RCS), Claudia Berrios-Campos (student representative), Associate Dean Bill Hart-Davidson

Approvals—Agenda was unanimously approved. Minutes of May 7 were approved with five abstentions (Berrios-Campos, Quispe-Agnoli, Rawal, Gass, Dotson).

Action Items—This month there are no course or program changes that need to be reviewed.

Announcements

1. Associate Dean Hart-Davidson welcomed new members and briefly explained general procedure of College Graduate Council.
2. Strategic Priorities for the Year:
 - a. Build culture of inclusiveness in Graduate Education—Hart-Davidson plans to invite our new Associate Dean for Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement to speak at the October meeting.
 - b. Foster investment in CAL Graduate Education by more enabling for chairs and units.
 - c. Capital Campaign—chairs will have more of a role.
3. Digital Humanities (DH) and Museum Studies certificate changes —Approved by UCC today. The changes make the DH certificate a little easier for students to obtain. Professor Sean Pue, who directs the graduate certification program, is planning a brief seminar for students on the certification process. Professor Quispe-Agnoli asked if a student participated in various department activities or having certain experiences, such as a student being a technology graduate assistant, would count toward the certificate requirements. Hart-Davidson said yes, they would.
4. New leadership in CAL and the Graduate School—New dean in College of Arts and Letters-- Christopher Long; new Associate Dean for Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement-- Sheila Contreras; and Associate Dean in the Graduate School, Judith Stoddart is taking an interim position as dean in the stead of retiring Karen Klomprens.
5. Graduate Office Funds (GOF) Distributions—This year's allocations were based on metrics that Hart-Davidson did last year. No unit lost money; and several gained due to right-sizing of programs and recruitment goals. Quispe-Agnoli asked what can be done if a student requests travel funding, for example, after the deadline. Hart-Davidson replied that because of Graduate School deadlines, that particular student may be out of luck until the next allocation becomes available in the summer. Professor Powell said in WRAC she requires all the students to submit

funding requests for conference travel and research by October. Professor Gass said that SLS requires such submissions even earlier. Quispe-Agnoli asked if post-trip reporting was required. The answer is for GOF funds, it's not required, but Hart-Davidson said that some sort of accountability is a good idea.

Discussion Items

1. New GEU Contract and handbook updates—Hart-Davidson thanked the group for their persistence and patience regarding the confusion on the stipend rates.
2. Parity of teaching excluded and research appointments with teaching assistantships—this year, there was a definite gap between the minimum stipend levels for teaching assistants (TAs) versus research (RAs) and teaching excluded (TEs). The TA rates were of course negotiated by the GEU, and the increase on the minimum level stipend was approximately 10%. The rates for RAs and TEs are determined by the Provost, and there was a 2% raise. (Last year the RAs and TEs had a slight edge on the TA negotiated scale.) There has been concern among various graduate directors about this. Hart-Davidson reported that this was discussed in this week's chairs meeting. Dean Long's take is that the rates for TEs and RAs should be raised to the TA level, to achieve parity. Notification will be sent to units in the near future regarding amending TE/RA appointments. The College will adjust for this for graduate assistants appointed on general funds. For students appointed on grant accounts, the principle investigator will have to adjust the rate.
3. Level revisions re: Level III requirements—Associate Provost Curry sent a memo in late June summarizing the new GEU contract changes. One of them had to do with the number of semesters required for a TA to attain Level 3 status. The memo stated that by or before August 15, every department must stipulate the number of semesters required for level III in the department graduate handbook. If this was not updated by then, the requirement would automatically default to four semesters. This announcement was made in a Chairs Meeting. Quispe-Agnoli stated that RCS had amended their graduate handbook to reflect the six semesters, as has been past practice in CAL since 2004. The group asked if they could see this memorandum, and Hart-Davidson indicated it would be sent out. Powell also asked about the long-standing College policy of defining eligible other experience as qualifying for level III of being post-secondary teaching. She asked if that could be reconsidered, for example, if a department had a non-traditional student who had taught high school for twenty years. Hart-Davidson was amenable to this idea.
4. Student employment and the ACA—students who have taken an appointment in another unit, may come with a penalty attached of \$5000, which means they would not be employable. For graduate students, the most likely scenario is a graduate student who has worked as a graduate assistant during the academic year; graduates, and the unit would like to hire them as a fixed term instructor that summer. So far, CAL has only run into the situation once, with a graduate student who worked as a student employee. Quispe-Agnoli asked if this could affect IAH instruction in the summer. Hart-Davidson said not usually for that, as long as the student was continuing, but if said student fell into the category of having graduated, it certainly could.

5. The question came up during negotiations as to whether teaching assistants should be considered mandatory reporters for sexual harassment; and the answer is yes. They do have to do at least the on-line training. GEU is setting up some training opportunities now. RAs are not required; TEs are if they are meeting with students (i.e. tutoring in the Writing Center). If RAs are meeting with minors, they do. Professor Polio asked how this would be tracked. Hart-Davidson said that it will probably shake out that the College will receive a list of who has not completed the training, and will have to contact the program graduate directors. There was discussion regarding how to contact the graduate students, when they would have to fulfill the requirement. Hart-Davidson suggested that CGC could ask Paulette Granberry-Russell to come and speak to the Committee, if they would like.
6. Graduate Research Enhancement Funding—as part of the package of Dean Long’s appointment, the provost’s office has agreed to funding of \$150,000, which will be matched by the College. This is put into the units’ budgets, and about half of it has already been so. It will have to be spent on students, and cannot be used in exchange for services (i.e., pay). It can be used for a graduate conference, but not pay faculty. Dean Long would like to see these funds used for competitive purposes (to encourage students to come to MSU), to encourage students to apply for external funding (grants). Professor Williams pointed out that it’s important to keep in mind that programs such as MFAs have different needs versus doctoral programs. Hart-Davidson said that the college has worked hard to make sure that the MFA students are not disadvantaged. Polio asked as to the timing of the funds. Hart-Davidson said that the programs will have the remainder of funds in place for recruitment opportunities.
7. Inclusive Recruitment plan and matching funds—units should send requests, and CAL will match. Hart-Davidson would like to hear the programs’ recruiting plans by next CGC meeting. Gass asked how they could better build inclusion into their recruitment when they didn’t know ahead of time who might be applying. Hart-Davidson mentioned that last year, WRAC and ENG partnered their diversity recruitment efforts. He would be willing to help pay for meeting with other universities, which do a good job at diverse recruitment. Ms. Berrios-Campos commented that international graduate students are accustomed to having a guarantee of research funding as they walk in the door, as that is what they often can expect to receive from universities in their home countries. Powell pointed out that when diversity and inclusion are discussed, they are meant as diversity and inclusion particular to each field.

Adjournment—The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm