

**Graduate Council Minutes
November 3, 2015
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
Main Campus, Student Union, Room 2582**

- Present: Michael Dowd, Mary Ellen Edwards, Ali Fatemi, Viviana Ferreira, Eric Prichard (GSA), Susanna Hapgood, David Jex, Andrea Kalinoski, Junghwan Kim, Jon Kirchhoff, Patricia Komuniecki, Anand Kunnathur, Willie McKether, Holly Monsos, Ron Opp, John Plenefisch, Susan Pocotte, Mary Powers for Viranga Tillekeratne, Geoffrey Rapp, Sonmez Sahutoglu, Amal Said, Youssef Sari, Constance Schall, Barry Scheuermann, Joseph Schmidt, Rebecca Schneider, Diana Shvydka, Susan Sochacki, Pamela Stover, Jerry Van Hoy, Lois Ventura, Richard Welsch.
- Excused: Ainsworth Bailey, Debra Boardley, Joseph Dake, Brian Fink, Mohamed Samir Hefzy, Richard Johnson, Carolyn Lee, Marcia McInerney, Diane Salvador
- Absent: Dwight Haase, William Messer, Kandace Williams.
- Guest: Interim Provost John Barrett, Ms. Elissa Falcone, Dr. Patricia Relue (GCCC Chair).

Call to Order, Roll Call, and Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order and the roll called.

Executive Reports

Report of the Executive Committee of the Graduate Council

Dr. Rebecca Schneider, Graduate Council (GC) Chair reported that the search for Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs is underway. The website <http://www.utoledo.edu/offices/provost/provostsearch/index.html> provides the position description, committee members, and timeline. The search committee is working with Parker Executive Search who will collect nominations, applications, or expressions of interest. Dr. Schneider encouraged Council to make recommendations and recruit people who might be interested or a good candidate for this position. The contact information for Parker Executive Search is at the end of the position description.

Bylaws language updates will be on the agenda for November 17th. The purpose is to clean up the language in the bylaws. We will not address the program review committee description at this meeting. GCEC will prepare a marked-up draft for discussion on November 17th. Edits to the bylaws for consideration should be sent to Dr. Schneider or to GCEC members.

The President's office has set up a Strategic Enrollment Plan (SEP) Council that is working with Ruffalo Noel Levitz. The SEP Council will be the driver of the planning coordinating across multiple work groups and will sign off on the final document. GC Vice Chair Dr. Connie Schall will represent Graduate Council.

Report of the Graduate Student Association (GSA)

Mr. Eric Prichard, President of GSA, reported that recruitment efforts for the 2016 Midwest Graduate Research Symposium (MGRS) are underway. Additional schools from Pennsylvania have recently been added. The GSA is planning to present a Life in Grad School forum on November 9, 2015 from 5:00 -7:00 p.m. in the Driscoll Auditorium. We expect representatives from both campuses and are still looking for a nursing student to join the panel. GSA is helping to support the Biological Sciences Graduate Research Symposium. The GSA general assembly approved ~ \$1500 for the event.

The next general assembly meeting will be Tuesday, November 10th at 6:00 p.m. in the Student Union Auditorium.

Report of the Vice Provost for Graduate Affairs and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies (COGS) Dean

Due to time constraints, Dean Komuniecki stated that she will share her report via email. She noted that she is working with Dr. Jim Mager on short-term enrollment strategies to increase enrollment for next year. Dr. Mager spoke at Faculty Senate recently where he mentioned the importance of accepting students in a timely fashion. Similarly, acceptance of graduate students should also occur in a timely fashion. There are hundreds of complete applications that remain un-reviewed for months. We only have 1.5 month window to accept and enroll students before the start of spring semester. Dean Komuniecki urged Council to take this 'call to action' message back to your programs. Recruitment of new students is President Gaber's highest priority -as she emphasized during her visit with us at our last GC meeting.

In addition, Dean Komuniecki requested that good news and points of pride about graduate students be shared with her so that COGS can help raise the visibility of the accomplishments of our students and share with the President.

See below Dean Komuniecki's report for inclusion in the minutes:

o *Spring 2016 Application/Admissions Summary*

Now is the critical time for spring admissions. COGS has already processed 434 applications – slightly above the number of applications for last spring. To date, programs have accepted 141 students (32.5% admit rate). So, there are about 200 open decision pages- please act on these as soon as possible. It is clear from the fall enrollment data that the sooner students are admitted to UT graduate programs, the more likely they are to enroll. We all need to work together to recruit as many qualified students as possible.

o *Current Enrollment Initiatives*

As you all know, President Gaber has identified increasing graduate enrollment as a high priority. Interim Vice President for Enrollment Jim Mager and Dean Komuniecki met regularly to review past practices and to identify a number of short term goals, often referred to as 'low hanging fruit', actions that might be taken to try to turnaround the recent graduate enrollment declines. Dr. Mager is also meeting with other groups across campus, including the leads on undergraduate recruitment and retention to explain the new efforts underway. Tomorrow, all the co-chairs of the Strategic Enrollment Plan working groups will meet for two hours with the two external consultants from Ruffalo Noel Levitz, who will report out on observations that they have made about possible areas of improvement. At the last GC meeting, Dean Komuniecki encouraged GC members to send to her any ideas about enrollment initiatives, both short and long term, and she reiterated that request today. The only way that enrollment efforts can be successful is when everyone participates in the process.

Short term ideas:

- 1) Review and admit students for spring and fall as quickly as possible! We cannot continue to make students wait to hear back on acceptance decisions from our graduate admissions committees for weeks and months (as is the case with some programs).
- 2) Be sure that the decision dates for your programs are early enough in the admission cycle to attract students. COGS has benchmark information by program from peer/aspirational institutions. Please inform COGS if you need to make a future change so that we can make the appropriate updates on our website.

- 3) Recruit UT undergraduates into our graduate programs. Over the past two years, about 34% of new enrollees are former UT students seeking graduate and professional degrees. Let's recruit more! What might be a reasonable goal? All programs or targeted ones? Establishing better pipelines from our Honors College would be a great start.
- 4) Create new marketing campaign- targeting programs with capacity, and professional programs not offered by other Northwest Ohio institutions.
- 5) Update UT Home page website to include a graduate drop down menu that links with COGS home page. Please remember to update your program webpages! These are the face of our graduate programs to prospective as well as current students.
- 6) Get an early release of the graduate assistantship and tuition scholarship budgets (by December) and continue the President's Recruitment Tuition Scholarship Incentive Program.
- 7) Increase international enrollment in those programs with capacity (overall international enrollment was down in fall 2015-why?)
- 8) Support the GSA Student Ambassador program – to recruit new graduate students from undergraduate-only institutions in Ohio, Michigan Pennsylvania and Indiana.
- 9) New marketing opportunities:
 - Market the undergraduate to graduate pipeline programs! Create new opportunities where possible.
 - Market the existing Professional Science Master's programs: PSM's in Photovoltaics, Biomarkers and Diagnostics, Human Donation Sciences, and Green Chemistry and Engineering; create additional ones in water resources, cyber security and others.
 - Market UT Certificates- especially appealing to the adult working professional.
- 10) What is missing from this list?
 - *Certificate Programs and Gainful Employment Disclosures*

Many of our colleges are currently updating old, or creating new, certificates, and the Dean wanted to be sure that GC is aware of the fact that if current or new certificate programs wish to make their certificate-students eligible for Financial Aid (FA), then there are very strict Federal (Department of Education) guidelines that must be followed in terms of disclosure, including advertising, tracking, reporting, and gathering actual placement and salary data as part of Gainful Employment requirements. Release of all Title IV FA to UT can be impacted negatively if UT is not in compliance. The Deans were made aware of this situation about a week ago, and are working to meet the regulations expeditiously. Members of the UT FA team (including Mr. Steve Schissler and Ms. Sherri Jiannuzzi) are willing to attend the November 17th GC meeting to describe this situation more fully if that would be helpful.
 - *Announcements*
 - Professional Development Programs

As mentioned at the last GC meeting, COGS hosts programs/workshops for Current Students. Information about the upcoming AY 2015-16 COGS Professional Development Programs on the MC and the HSC is available on the COGS website under the Current Students' link. The topics fall under four key areas: Academic Planning, Career Development, Graduate Writing, and Thesis & Dissertation.

As always, graduate students are welcome to attend any COGS session regardless of program location- and there are several that are only offered on one or the other campus. Upcoming presentations include:

Telling Your Professional Story: An Introduction to Seelio
Sponsored by the College of Graduate Studies

Seelio [<https://seelio.com/>] is an online resource where you can easily and beautifully document your projects and passions in order to tell your professional story.

Capture all the things that add depth to your resume or curriculum vitae – like research projects, fellowships, teaching experiences, field placements, leadership activities, conference presentations, and published papers – with rich visuals and meaningful descriptions to more comprehensively and vividly reflect your professional trajectory.

- Monday, November 2, 2015 from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. in Collier Building Room 1200 (Health Science Campus)
- Tuesday, November 3, 2015 from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. in Student Union Room 2582 (Main Campus)

Information and Discussion Items

Discussion with Interim Provost John Barrett

Provost Barrett appreciated the opportunity to speak with Graduate Council and was glad to respond the set of questions that he received from Chair Schneider on behalf of the Council. He stated the discussion would be most productive as a dialogue and he welcomed comments.

Question: Would you please give us an update on faculty hiring plans and explain how a hiring freeze may impact future faculty searches?

Provost Barrett stated that the ‘hiring freeze’ is a position hold that has been extended from 30 to 60 days to an 8-month hold beginning in January 2016 as a result of an additional budget shortfall. We had anticipated a slight increase in enrollment in student housing, a 2% increase in undergraduate enrollment and flat graduate enrollment for fall 2015. However, housing was down, undergraduate was flat and graduate enrollment was down by 284 students. This was coupled to the fact the University faced an \$11M shortfall prior to the state’s edict to extend our plateau pricing to 18 credit hours. President Gaber does not want to lay people off and is looking for the least painful way to bridge the gap. That leaves us to manage with what we have. Extra compensation cannot be requested. The hiring freeze, however, does not have a meaningful impact on faculty hiring with most hiring done at eight months out. We want to offer our courses and can hire part-timers if needed. Every college created a plan last year particularly where there are faculty retirements to replace those positions. We are not taking those lines away. As additional people retire, we will continue to evaluate the positions based on recommendation of college and dean and analysis by the Provost’s office. Departments will need to step up and to help with getting report into state on low enrolled and performing courses. We have been working consistently on this project over the past few weeks. We just received a template last week so we are re-running numbers. It was more aggressive than anticipated. Data reveals that 20-25% of courses could be considered low-enrolled. There are any number of reasons for this situation. We want to provide the state with a narrower band. We have had an explosion of course offerings over the past seven years. We will reach out to chairs and deans to look at our curricular offerings. If we offer fewer sections, it will allow faculty to teach fewer courses.

The report is due to the state leaving institutions to define at what enrollment caps we run courses. We have the Scarborough memo and other standards used in the past. We will use our past standards, compare with the state, and publish on our website. We also are reaching out to other public four-year institutions so that we can determine where we stand relative to others.

Dr. Gottgens suggested looking at the total offerings by a department then divide by the number of faculty and let departments decide how they want to split it.

Provost Barrett replied that independent studies have already been removed from the equation. etc. The state could ask why we are not collaborating with another institution. In some departments, that approach may work well. We have programs that over a three-year period have had ten majors that have a couple of lower-level general education robustly-enrolled courses to boost FTEs, but if it is a small program, electives may have smaller enrollments. The solution is to grow the programs. A lot of programs that are studies, American Studies, etc., are thinly enrolled with number of majors, but the courses that comprise the program may not be low enrolled. Women's and Gender Studies may have students enrolled in an English course in which there is significant enrollment because English majors are enrolled as well because the course reaches across a lot of disciplines. We are trying to analyze the data and account for those instances. Low enrollment is the beginning of the analysis, not the end.

Mr. Eric Prichard asked whether the state's reporting would negatively affect faculty/student ratio, which might hurt our ranking.

Provost Barrett responded that he does not anticipate a mandated ratio. He wondered how many courses we may have with 20-24 students that could be reduced to 19. For example, English Composition has many sections. We can manage smart.

Dr. Ali Fatemi inquired whether a faculty retirement in July 2015 could be advertised for hire in Fall 2016.

Provost Barrett responded that the short answer is no, however, a request can be made for authority to rehire. The chair and dean provide a needs request which is evaluated by the Provost's office and consideration will be given to whether the enrollment is growing or shrinking.

During your time as provost, what has surprised you the most? What are you most pleased to have accomplished?

Provost Barrett was surprised by the overwhelming amount of regulatory requirements by the state. He did not intend to make the Provost's office bigger, but the increased number of mandated reports/forms makes that necessary. He was amazed with how people interface with the Provost with a reluctance to be candid. You only make good decisions if you have good data. This may be a result of previous tense faculty and administration relationships. He stated that he is most proud of trust he shared with former Interim President Naganathan and is pleased with President Gaber's tone adding that morale is better than a year and a half ago. It is important to have engaged faculty, staff and students. Provost Barrett stated that he was pleased to restore sabbaticals, up from 20% and all but two were approved and we saved money in the process.

What is the status of potential or current college or department reorganizations that are being discussed this year? Are there any planned reorganizations of administrative units? If so, what is the tentative timeline for these changes?

Provost Barrett responded that there are three potential college reorganizations. The College of Adult and Lifelong Learning and YouCollege will combine into University College. Students are being admitted to University College. Distance Learning will report through University College as well. It should be integrated over the summer. The second reorganization is the combining of the College of Social Justice and Human Service (SJHS) and the College of Health Sciences (HS). Dr. Thomas Gutteridge (Dean of SJHS) will be retiring at the end of fall semester 2015 and Dr. Chris Ingersoll (Dean of HS) will also serve as acting dean of SJHS in spring 2016. Consolidation is expected to occur during summer 2016. Recommendations from those deans are expected within the next couple of weeks. The Higher Education program (currently housed in SJHS) will likely move into the Judith Herb College of Education and those details are being worked out. The College of Communication and the Arts (CoCA) and the College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences (LLSS) have met to discuss those two units coming together with consolidation over summer and effective in fall 2016. From those meetings, the Provost sensed that one college was inclined to merge and one was less inclined, but both are willing to work toward the goal. There are no details yet. There could be schools within the college or a college degree requirement, Foreign Languages? There may be subunit autonomy which could be a precondition to have people come together. With the CoCA and LLSS reorganization discussion, some LLSS faculty suggested inviting the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (CNSM) to rejoin them. There will be further discussions but he does not sense a push from CNSM for that action.

Lastly, it is likely that the MPH program currently housed in the College of Medicine and Life Sciences (COMLS) will shift into the newly formed HHS College which already houses the baccalaureate public health degree. Those discussions are continuing at present.

Funding graduate assistantships is important for supporting the academic and research missions. In addition to the efforts to enhance graduate enrollment of fee-paying students, is there a plan to stabilize and restore, and perhaps enhance, the graduate assistantship budget?

Provost Barrett does not anticipate any enhancement of the graduate assistantship budget until the university's financial situation improves. And efforts are underway in that regard as President Gaber is increasing philanthropy and has hired Ruffalo Noel Levitz to work with SEP Council to develop a 3-5 year strategic plan to enhance enrollment. Graduate assistants are a piece of the process but there likely will not be a change in the short term.

Given that UT has a large international graduate student population and the new Ohio GREAT plan encourages USO institutions to recruit and retain international students, what is the status of the UT Council on Global Initiatives?

Provost Barrett stated UT's Center for International Studies and Programs (CISP) is alive and well. New MOUs go through CISP before the Provost's Office. They are reviewed that we are signing when they lead to meaningful outcomes. There are opportunities for growth in the international populations. Adjustment may be necessary regarding how we recruit internationally following feedback from our experts.

How will the information that each program provided in its recent enrollment and productivity report be used?

Provost Barrett emphasized that input from the faculty is always welcome. Primary factors are two Higher Learning Commission (HLC) pieces and Program Review. HLC will conduct a mid-cycle visit in April 2016. This is a new mechanism. In 2012, UT accreditation was granted for the full 10 years, and then later the HLC included a mid-cycle visit. HLC changed how they did things after they visited us, and they could decide they want more reports and visits.

Their standards require documentation showing that standards have been met and a written argument specifying how it has been met including links as evidence. Our draft document is 42,000 words not including links and the second draft should be better still. There are some data holes that we are addressing, such as indicating where our graduates are employed. We are making a major push for this information. At the Academic Leadership Team meeting, we have stressed that course syllabi are required and acknowledged the fact that we have too many cross-listed courses without differentiation of expectations. We need to have faculty CVs on file that include their highest degree. In some cases, we have faculty that we know have advanced degrees, but we have no documentation on file to that effect.

Information on additional locations where UT delivers programs was also missing, and we know that we have programs at community colleges and in other countries; so, we have gathered the relevant documentation and submitted to HLC for approval. We have filed 11 applications with HLC for approval and three visits have already occurred or will occur: Schoolcraft was visited last fall, and an HLC team is here today reviewing two more sites. Once three sites are approved, the HLC will not need to visit potential new delivery sites, but UT will simply need to send notification when we make adjustments to locations. However, it is not set up to approve a cohort that moves around to different locations. For example, if a new cohort is moved from delivery in Columbus to Livonia, UT will have to update the website indicating whether the location is activated or deactivated. It should be easier to remain compliant going forward. HLC required reinstatement of Program Review and now every program is on a seven-year cycle. We try to conduct the review the year before the program is up for accreditation (if applicable). Other programs may desire to conduct their review mid-cycle or at another time. If you have sub-accreditations, like in education, you may want to do program review that coordinates with those accreditations.

Given your experience as provost, what do you think should be priorities for a new provost? In addition, what skills and qualities are vital for this role?

Provost Barrett stated that the position of provost requires someone who is willing to work 80-100 hours per week, unless an additional vice provost is added. The position requires someone who gives of themselves to the institution. Patience and intellectual flexibility are useful. UT is a complex institution and higher education is at a time of major change/shifting sands. 'Service before self' must be a part of their value system.

The priorities for a new provost would be to work toward UT becoming distinctive as an institution and for its programs and delivery. We are one of 27 schools that are comprehensive with the same breadth of professional schools. We can build pipeline programs and reduce time to degree. This will be a rocky time in higher education; some institutions may shutter doors and others may combine. We must provide good reasons for potential students to choose UT. It is our hardest and biggest challenge. We need to rebuild our space and offer programs and co-curricular opportunities in a more thoughtful way including streamlining and updating our curriculum. The Honors College needs to be distinctive We should develop a meaningful path for our weaker students to graduate. We have too many undergraduate students that have low grades early on but who often do better later, however, they may need to take a lot of additional hours to increase their GPA to meet graduation standards. Our student body is diverse but we can work to increase diversity across leadership. We need to do more there. The President's short term goals are important: to increase enrollment, increase research funding and, and increase our endowment through increased philanthropy.

From your perspective, what can Graduate Council do to help a new provost get up to speed with graduate programs and graduate student issues?

Provost Barrett suggested that a new provost be invited to Graduate Council and also be keenly aware that graduate education is not a 'one-size-fits-all' education. Graduate Council can show through actions that it is working to make UT stronger.

Provost Barrett invited Council to ask additional questions:

Dr. Mary Powers asked how budget issues are connected to housing and how Academic Village might factor in.

Provost Barrett replied that although he is not an expert, we have guaranteed high occupancy, and utilization of resident halls is important. The university is making two major changes in housing rules. Students who lived more than 50 miles from campus were required to have on campus housing for their first year. The new changes include reducing the distance from campus from 50 to 25 miles beginning in fall 2016 and extending the one-year requirement to two years. Living on campus leads to increased engagement, retention and degree completion outcomes. After implementation of the two-year requirement, UT will be at capacity. UT's current five-year degree completion rate of 41% needs improvement. We need to help students complete their degrees in a timely fashion. Summer bridge and success coaches are available to assist in the goal. It is also important since half of our SSI comes from degree completion.

Dr. Kirchhoff inquired whether graduate students are allowed to live on campus.

Provost Barrett replied that they can live on campus, but apartment-style living is not available and graduate students typically prefer a different lifestyle from undergraduates. It is possible that a wing of a building could be set aside for graduate students if there is interest.

Dean Komuniecki added that Academic House does have kitchenettes and that option has been on and off the table at various times. If there is interest, she will get a proposal to Dr. Kaye Patten Wallace.

Dr. Geoffrey Rapp inquired whether the Provost Search Committee is considering internal candidates.

Chair Schneider, a member of the Provost Search Committee, indicated that it does not appear to be ruled out.

Provost Barrett again thanked the Council for the opportunity for a discussion.

Standing Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee

On behalf of the Graduate Council Curriculum Committee (GCCC), Chair Dr. Patricia Relue, reported that the GCCC reviewed and approved the following curriculum. GCCC approved unanimously. Course modifications (MPHY) were approved with the provision that the committee verify that the college and department on the proposals correspond appropriately with the alpha/numeric course numbers. These MPHY 8000-level courses are all cross-listed with MPHY 6000-level courses. The 6000 level courses are part of the MSBS Medical Physics program through the Department of Radiation Oncology in the College of Medicine. The MPHY 8000-level courses are taken by doctoral students in Physics with a specialization in medical physics.

The course modifications for the 6000-level courses were approved by the Graduate Council on April 29, 2014. The signatures for the 8000-level courses are through the Department of Physics and Astronomy in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

#	Proposal Type	Coll.	Department	Proposal Name	Course No.	Summary of Proposal
1	ECM	MD	Bioinformatics	Readings in Biomarkers and Diagnostics	BIDI 5200	Change in grading from grade to Pass/no credit.
2	ECM	MD	Radiation Oncology	Survey of Diagnostic Medical Imaging I	MPHY 8010	Change of title from Radiation Physics I to Survey of Diagnostic Medical Imaging I; Change in catalog description.
3	ECM	MD	Radiation Oncology	Survey of Diagnostic Medical Imaging II	MPHY 8020	Change of title from Radiation Physics II to Survey of Diagnostic Medical Imaging II; Change in catalog description.
4	ECM	MD	Radiation Oncology	Radiation Dosimetry I	MPHY 8120	Change in cr. hours from 4 to 3; revised catalog description; reduction due to Am. Board of Radiology professional certification requirements reduction in total credit hours for program.
5	ECM	SM	Radiation Oncology	Radiation Dosimetry II	MPHY 8130	Change in cr. hours from 4 to 3; revised catalog description; reduction due to Am. Board of Radiology professional certification requirements reduction in total credit hours for program.
6	ECM	SM	Radiation Oncology	Radiation Biology	MPHY 8160	Change in cr. hours from 4 to 3; revised catalog description; reduction due to Am. Board of Radiology professional certification requirements reduction in total credit hours for program.
7	ECM	SM	Radiation Oncology	Anatomy Physiology	MPHY 8310	Change in cr. hours from 6 to 4; revised catalog description; reduction due to Am. Board of Radiology professional certification requirements reduction in total credit hours for program.
8	ECM	SM	Radiation Oncology	Clinical Training in Radiation Oncology Physics I	MPHY 8610	Change in cr. hours from 8 to 4; revised catalog description; reduction due to Am. Board of Radiology professional certification requirements reduction in total credit hours for program.
9	ECM	SM	Radiation Oncology	Clinical Training in Radiation Oncology Physics II	MPHY 8620	Change in cr. hours from 8 to 4; revised catalog description; reduction due to Am. Board of Radiology professional certification requirements reduction in total credit hours for program.
10	ECM	PH	Pharmacy Practice	Longitudinal Drug Information	PHPR 8630	Change in grading from grade (A-F) to Pass/Fail.
11	ECM	CE	Educational Psychology, Research, and Social Foundations	Intergroup and Intercultural Education	TSOC 5230	Change in the catalog description.

12	NCP	EN	Electrical Eng. and Computer Science	Special Topics in EECS	EECS 5980	Pilot offerings of new courses involving emerging topics of interest are introduced using this number. One credit per lecture hour or 2.5 lab hours per week.
13	PRR	MD	Biomedical Science	Degree Title Change: From: Ph.D. in Medical Sciences To: Ph.D. in Biomedical Science	N/A	
14	NPP	CE	Educational Foundations and Leadership	Culture and Change in Institutions [CERTIFICATE]	N/A	Students take 4 of the 5 courses: TSOC 5/7230; TSOC 5/7100; TSOC 5/7210; TSOC 6/8320; EDP 6/8150. All courses currently exist.

Membership Committee

None.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Announcements

Chair Schneider announced that at the next GC meeting, November 17th, the updated language in the Bylaws will be reviewed. Comments and edits should be sent to the Graduate Council Executive Committee (GCEC). The Graduate Council has been asked to participate in the Strategic Enrollment Planning Council (SEPC) that oversees its workgroups. The first meeting is November 4, 2015. GC Vice Chair, Dr. Connie Schall is serving as the GC's representative. The SEPC work should conclude its work in about 10 months. The committee will be driving the process.

Dr. Susan Pocotte reminded Council that the hard deadline for applying for Graduate Research Awards is November 20th. To date, only one application has been submitted.

Dr. Fatemi inquired as to the percentage of graduate students who receive assistantships and whether UT has done benchmarking. Dean Komuniecki replied that we do have the data, by college and master's and doctoral level at the end of the each semester, and that the associate deans have received it. COGS has benchmarked its data. Of the ~4300 graduate/professional students, 25-30% receive some type of assistantship or grant support. That information could be brought to the next GC meeting if there is interest.

Open Dialogue with President Gaber- Elissa Falcone, Chair of Professional Staff Council

Ms. Elissa Falcone, Professional Staff Association (PSA) Chair 2015-2016 announced that PSA is sponsoring an Open Dialogue (town hall style) with President Gaber on Thursday, November 5, 2015. In raising awareness for the event, she invited GC members to attend. The event has been marketed and will be streamed live. It is a grassroots and organic discussion.

PSA is not part of a bargaining unit and seeks support in the promotion and attendance. The hiring freeze impacts staff that have taken on a lot of responsibilities. While the PSA is sponsoring the current event, sponsorship is open and perhaps the next session could be held on the HSC or sponsored by Graduate Council. The dialogue can be steered to specific topics of interest.

Ms. Falcone thanked Council for the opportunity for bring this to their attention.

There was no response to Chair Schneider's inquiry seeking interest in Graduate Council sponsoring a future session.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Council adjourned at 1:58 p.m.