

## **Graduate Council Report to Board of Trustees Academic and Student Affairs Committee June 17, 2019**

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This report includes the activities of Graduate Council (GC) since our last report on April 15, 2019.

During March and April, the UT graduate faculty in individual colleges elected about one third of new GC representatives. At the April 30 GC meeting, the officers for the 2019-20 academic year were elected (Dr. Song-Tao Liu, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Chair; Dr. Wendy Cochrane, College of Health and Human Services, Vice Chair; Dr. Penny Poplin Gosetti, College of Arts and Letters; Dr. Mohamed Samir Hefzy, College of Engineering; Dr. Martha Sexton, College of Nursing). These elected officers will join the Executive Committee of GC (GCEC) in the 2019-20 academic year.

I would like to thank my predecessor, Dr. Jerry Van Hoy, for his dedicated and outstanding leadership of Graduate Council and advocacy for graduate faculty during the past year. Dr. Van Hoy was also instrumental in facilitating input to the College of Graduate Studies Strategic Plan at the Graduate Council. We are happy that Dr. Van Hoy will stay in the GCEC in the coming year as immediate past Chair.

At the April 16 GC meeting, Ms. Teri Green, Graduate Academic Services Specialist from the COGS office, introduced the winners of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual 3 Minute Thesis competition at The University of Toledo. The competition encouraged graduate students to present the discoveries made in their thesis research within 3 minutes. This year's winners were 1<sup>st</sup> place winner Gayatri Subramanian, PhD in Medical Microbiology and Immunology; runner-up Robin Su, MD/PhD in Molecular Medicine; and People's Choice Rachel Golonka, PhD in Biomedical Sciences.

Also at the April 16 GC meeting, Dr. Richard Francis, Director for Research Advancement & Information Systems, briefed the GC about the selection of this year's internal research awards. Dr. Barbara Schneider, Associate Vice Provost for Assessment, Accreditation, Program Review, and Faculty Development, presented the Syllabus Review Outcomes. A unifying syllabus template provided by the Provost's office has helped improve the overall quality and uniformity of the course syllabi across the campus, but more efforts are needed to get the University ready for the HLC reaffirmation of accreditation. Dr. Cyndee Gruden, Interim Vice Provost for Graduate Affairs and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, led the discussion on graduate faculty responsibilities in mentoring and student well-being. Dr. Gruden highlighted the learning cycle of a typical graduate student and reminded the advisors to be aware that this generation of graduate students might have different perceptions and habits in their interactions with faculty members.

At the April 30 GC meeting, the COGS scholarship recipients were introduced and awarded by Dr. Cyndee Gruden. The winners were Maja Hill from Pharmacy (Richard L. Bostleman Memorial Scholarship), Colins Imoh from College of Education (Helen M. Fields Memorial Achievement Award), and David Sherman from HHS (Robert N. Whiteford Memorial Scholarship).

By April 30, 2019, the GC Curriculum Committee has reviewed 165 proposals for new or modified courses and programs in the 2018-19 academic year. We are very appreciative of the time and effort our faculty representatives have given to carefully considering each proposal. The GC Membership Committee has also been busy with timely processing of new membership applications and renewals.

Since the beginning of the summer semester, the GCEC has met on May 7 and June 11 and discussed internal governance issues and several curricular and policy items. During the meeting with Provost Bjorkman on May 22, we expressed our concern over the potential COGS budget cut and the health insurance crisis that graduate students have faced. Both are imminent issues that could impact graduate education and research at UT. On a positive note, Ohio Board of Regents approved the Master of Applied Business Analytics and Master of Science in Applied Business Analytics in College of Business and Innovation.

The Graduate Council looks forward to continuing our partnerships with the College of Graduate Studies, the Provost's office, the Research office, the Graduate Student Association, and UT faculty, staff and students in supporting our graduate and professional programs.

Respectfully,  
Song-Tao Liu, Ph.D.  
University of Toledo Graduate Council Chair