

GRADUATE ADMINISTRATORS' COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, April 14, 2022

8:30am – 10:30am

Via Zoom Meeting ID: <https://odu.zoom.us/j/92937685226?from=addon>

Attendees: Bryan Porter, Missy Barber, David Cook, Lesley Greene, Megan Corbett, Debbie Bauman, Lamar Reams, Regina Karp, Jane Danè, Karen Eck, Dale Miller, Paul Currant, Linda Bol, Chunsheng Xin, Humberto Portellez, Sandeep Kumar, and Wie Yusuf.

Welcome

Robert Wojtowicz welcomed attendees.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for February 10, 2022, were approved. David Cook moved to approve. Lamar Reams called second.

New Business

- Ph.D. Survey – Robert Wojtowicz / Bryan Porter

Robert announced the survey's launch date as Monday, April 18. He explained that the Qualtrics survey is tied to the President's office for their ongoing analysis regarding increasing stipends for GAs to increase the university's competitive edge when recruiting graduate students. Individual spending and allocating practices and methods across programs make it difficult to narrow down results – the survey data will allow for a clearer picture.

Bryan Porter shared the survey on-screen and noted that it was for graduate program directors to complete and that a window of two weeks would be given to complete it. The objective is to get an average number of master's and doctoral compensation packages offered in programs for the different assistant positions. It was clarified that the survey is targeting university money not sponsored research dollars. Information about tuition waivers, full or partial, is also requested.

There is also a section regarding summer assistantships to get better information on the availability of summer positions as well as their stipends. Robert suggested adding a question to this section that gives the option of the answer of "No, but we would if we had the funds."

Other suggestions were made, and Bryan made the changes to the survey in real-time – the percentage of students that are assistants and an estimated headcount for the program.

Bryan also noted that the Graduate School's GA, Xavier-Lewis Palmer, had spent 72 hours compiling a GA stipend data list of identified peer institutions (the university has identified 24 – 12 R1 peers and 12 R1 aspirational peers).

As of this meeting, Bryan said that the minimum stipend by university policy for 12 months is \$8,900. The stipend is lower than every one of the peer institutions that ODU is researching. While most programs do not pay the minimum, the salaries average between 9K – 14K. And yet, we are still far below the average of our aspirational peers.

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Of the 10 peer institutions and the 10 aspirational peer institutions – almost all 20 have minimum stipends above our minimum. Bryan noted that ODU's is \$3,200 per academic semester which is \$6,400 per academic year. Regina Karp noted that ODU could have more full-time students if we had better-endowed assistantships. She stressed that is the underlying reason why most are part-time because they cannot live on the stipend alone. She noted that surveys are great, but they are not capturing the reality of the graduate student demographic.

Robert Wojtowicz then noted that he knows President Hemphill is supporting the intelligence gathering regarding GA stipends and that he is confident that the investment will come. Robert went on to note that the baseline of 15 thousand for a PhD student has not increased since it was set in 2006. He pointed out that after the initial run of the survey, more information gathering may take place regarding demographic information.

David Cook asked if the survey is looking at the fall census and Robert confirmed it. He then noted that the survey closes on April 29.

GAC Student Survey – Megan Corbett

A short, anonymous survey was created to get insight into graduate students and their experience within the graduate program. It will cover quality of instruction, mentoring, and advising. Even though this survey will go out on the same day as the Ph.D. survey, Megan noted that it is not aimed at the same individuals. Following suggestions from attendees, the survey was edited and finalized.

Enrollment Numbers – Jane Danè

Jane went over enrollment numbers briefly. She reported an overall increase in headcount of 1.26% with the slightest dip in the overall FTE of -0.62%.

She reported that overall Fall enrollment numbers are up by 10.76%. With graduate enrollment at 1312 up by 123 and at 10.34%.

Announcements

Advanced Degree Luncheon – Robert Wojtowicz urged everyone to get their graduate students to sign up for the luncheon since President Hemphill and the First Lady would be in attendance.

GRAD Day Research Poster Competition – Missy read out the winners and their prizes.

- 1st Place – Wimasha Jayanetti, College of Sciences, Mathematics & Statistics
- 2nd Place (Tie) – Lauren Luginsland, Darden College of Education & Professional Studies, Human Movement Sciences
- 2nd Place (Tie) – Nathan Hager, College of Sciences, Psychology
- 3rd Place – Samantha Vest, College of Health Sciences, Dental Hygiene

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- Honorable Mention – Cara Tonn, College of Health Sciences, School of Community and Environmental Health
- Honorable Mention – Gyanendra Kharel, College of Sciences, Chemistry, and Biochemistry

New Hooding Strategies Video – The new video was created by the Graduate School with collaboration from the College of Health Sciences and shown to the attendees.