

GRADUATE ADMINISTRATORS' COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, October 12, 2023

8:30am – 10:30am

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

In attendance: Robert Wojtowicz, Missy Barber, Bryan Porter, Megan Corbett, Karen Vaughn, Regina Karp, Mary Swartz, Jeffrey LaCombe, Christopher Fleming, Denise Claiborne, Jackie Stein, Helen Jacobson, Janice Hawkins, Wie Yusuf, Paul Currant, John Baaki, Rafael Diaz, Piotr Kraj, Dale Miller

Minutes for September 14, 2023 were approved.

New Business

- Graduate Enrollment Update – Christopher Fleming

Enrollment is up by 1.33% - 63 students. Overall graduate enrollment for Fall 2023 is at 4,783, both new and continuing enrollment and includes on-campus and digital. The numbers for new first-time graduate students: campus-based down 8%, digital grew 9.6%. Identify students who are coded as on-campus or online. The discussion focused on tracking students who go from digital to on-campus or vice versa.

- Graduate Student Health Insurance Update – Bryan Porter

Survey: Before the data was shared, Bryan Porter told the Council that they could receive the survey update via email if they wished. The numbers showed that 66% of those who answered the survey were US citizens or residents. International students factor in at 90% due to the university requirement that they carry health insurance. When asked if insurance should be mandatory, the survey showed that 59% agreed or strongly agreed. When asked for comments, of the 498 graduate students who responded to the survey, 131 domestic students and 24 international students answered the question. Negative comments about the mandate came primarily from the domestic students while comments from the international students were mostly positive. When asked about the opt-out option, the majority of the students were in favor, especially when considering the financial impact of the cost. They also asked for a payment plan that would give them some measure of financial relief. The Council requested the report to be sent via email.

- RFP – Robert Wojtowicz

UHC expires end of July and the Aetna coverage for EVMS expires at the same time. The idea is to issue RFP to cover both stud populations. Starting coverage would be a post-integration date. Two points made were to continue mandatory for international and opt in for domestic while continuing with the subsidy for graduate assistants. The second is to create expanded coverage to all graduate students with a generous op-out policy. He reported that the discussions are ongoing, but a decision is needed to get the RFP out and circulating.

- Advising Survey Update – Bryan Porter

A key point in the University's strategic plan is to improve the infrastructure for graduate advising. The survey was launched the day before and he asked for solid support from the Council in getting the GPDs to respond.

GRADUATE ADMINISTRATORS' COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, October 12, 2023

8:30am – 10:30am

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

- Post-Doc Associates Update – Wie Yusuf

Faculty Senate reviewed the proposal before them and after much discussion centering on language, it will be sent back to the Graduate School for editing and reconsidered upon submission. Their primary recommendations were to streamline the policy so that it focused on research hires and that the policy should be in the RF handbook. They also recommended that it be reviewed by someone who is currently serving in a postdoc position.

- Publication Options for Dissertations – Jeffrey LaCombe

There is current data research into peer institutions and their handling of thesis and dissertation options. The project is currently in the beginning stages and is looking at the different approaches they have for addressing concerns surrounding copyrights and already published papers. He noted that since it is in the initial stages, he asked for participation from the Council and said they could reach out to him via email.

Announcements – Missy Barber

- Lunch with Industry – This event is being rescheduled for Friday, November 10.
- Catalog Updates
 - 2023-2024 Catalog – Published online. Preparing PDF for publication.
 - 2024-2025 Catalog – CIM is open for course additions/changes. To register for training go to www.odu.edu/acadaffairs/courseleaf. CAT will be open for editing after PDF is published. Deadline is December 15.
- ETS events for Undergraduate Students interested in graduate education
 - GRE Prep Session - Tuesday, October 31, 2023, 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm
 - Be a Star – Thursday, November 2, 2023, 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm