

Graduate Administrators' Council Meeting
Thursday, February 9, 2017
Koch Hall Board Room

Members in attendance: Robert Wojtowicz, Chair, Holly Gaff, David Chapman, Wie Yusuf, Isao Ishibashi, Bill Heffelfinger, Wayne Hynes. Corey van Vlymen, Jane Dane, Shirshak Dhali, Steve Myran, Kevin DePew, Bryan Porter, David Earnest, Bonnie Van Lunen, and Missy Barber

Guest Attendees: Lisa Hall, Doug Streit

Approval of Minutes from Thursday, January 26, 2017

- Minutes were approved as submitted.

Advisor Hold for Newly Admitted Students

- Dr. Wojtowicz advised Council that he, Bryan Porter, and Missy Barber met with Jane Dane and Bill Heffelfinger to brainstorm about what could be done to lift holds sooner to make the registration process easier for students.
- One idea would be to have the GPDs send an advisory letter out to students in their first semester. This can be automated through Hobson's and can be send out within a couple of days of admission. This option might not work for all programs, so we would allow departments to opt in.
- The rationale behind this is two to three fold. We hear from students at new student orientation who have not been able to register because they haven't been able to get up with their advisors to get the advisor hold lifted. Also, we need to shift to a culture of early registration for graduate students.
- Dr. Wojtowicz asked Council if this plan would work. Concern was expressed about having the direct contact with students. It has been discussed before about adding a personal touch to the process, we don't want to lose that. Overall, the responses were varied. Some agreed that it could work in specific situations, others said whatever will make the process easier for the students. There was also discussion about lifting the advisor hold when a student reaches ABD status. Also there was discussion about graduate students still having undergraduate advisors. There is a request in process with ITS to look at that issue.

Master's Programs

- Dr. Wojtowicz asked if we had any master's programs that can be done in a calendar year (non-thesis). He is interested in promoting a 4 + 1 where it is possible. Engineering said it may be possible for them. Dr. Wojtowicz thought of accounting as another option. Others also said that they would need to have a 30 hour master's to do it, which would require program changes. Dr. Wojtowicz thought it would be a good way to attract undergraduate students and the Graduate School would be a good agent to promote it.
- Dr. Wojtowicz to follow-up with Associate Deans and have them map out programs that could be done in 5 years. He thinks it is something we might be able to promote next year.
- Some concern was expressed about degree inflation and the importance of practical experience gained between the undergraduate and master's degrees.
- We can send messages from the departments to admitted students through Hobson's as an automated process so that students are informed. We need to catch students earlier, preferably when they are juniors or seniors in high school.

Executive IT Security Briefing – Doug Streit

- Doug Streit from ITS gave a presentation to the group on ITS' security measures. He talked about the Fall Phishing attacks on ODU. He said that the emails looked very professional and they used data from our site. He warned that we should always look at URLs before replying to any email.
- Advanced Threat Protection
 - Maintains a database.
 - Removes malicious attachments.
 - Malicious links are redirected.
 - Produces logs for follow-up.
 - Can cause a delay in receipt of email of up to 5 minutes.

Doctoral Policy Revision

- The generic policy is 48 hours post master's and 78 hours post baccalaureate. However, combined for DNP is more than 78. Dr. Wojtowicz posed the question as to whether or not we should reduce the 78 to 72. It was decided that he would post to the VCGS list serve to see what other schools are doing.