

## **GSC Committee Meeting Form**

**Instructions:** Please complete the relevant sections of this form and notify the GSC president, VP, and Webmaster no more than 48 hours after attending any committee meetings, or other meetings as a representative of GSC. This form will be made public on the GSC website for graduate students to review.

**GSC Members Attending:** Sean Sellers (President)

**Name of Meeting/Committee:** Graduate Council

**Meeting Date:** September 5, 2019

**Start Time:** 11:30 am (call to order 12:01 pm)

**End Time:** 13:07

**Brief Summary of Committee Purpose:** The Graduate Council is an advisory body to the Dean of the Graduate School at New Mexico State University. They advise the Dean on matters of policy affecting Graduate Students.

**Meeting Summary/Main Points of Interest (Inc: Upcoming Events, Topics Discussed, Changes Made, Relevant Points):**

1. One agenda amendment: International Programs moved up. Minutes approved
2. **Graduate Faculty Status forms updates:** Clarification of verbage. Up for approval today.
  - a. Question about individuals from outside the system for mentoring 1 or more students. Fall under restricted, currently set for one student at a time, but could be amended. This is a now-or-never situation. Dr. Rayson moves to adopt proposed process, with understanding that an additional mechanism for outside faculty acceptance is forthcoming. Approved. World's longest motion.
3. **Electronic Thesis Dissertation** is moving to copyright dissertations. This has caused some issues where copyright is concerned. Proposed solution is a training mechanism that would train you on the nuts and bolts thereof.
  - a. Further explanations: ProQuest (software) wants to make absolutely certain that all copyrighted materials within a dissertation are free to use, without undermining copyright protections. Journal articles, in particular, are problematic. For many high-impact factor journals, copyright is retained on figures, etc., in whole. Some require you to pay to get reproduction rights.
  - b. Program of Study should require advisor or student to undergo training including both video training and a written LiveGuide for copyright protection of theses. We would like to avoid having mandatory compliance training, but a training course.

- c. Motion for members of Grad Council to work with Susan Beck to develop training materials, include them in the program of study, and endorsement of proposal from Graduate Council.
- 4. **Formatting Electronic Thesis Dissertation Responsibilities:** Student formatting issues with ETD. Formatting should be the responsibility of students and faculty, not the library. Formatting will always be unique to each field. We do not push this responsibility to office of Research, or any higher authority than the student/advisor.
- 5. **Dissertation Announcements:** Skipped.
- 6. **Information-Sharing:**
  - a. **Graduate School:** New program management system (Slate) is almost online (Live on Monday). Training is incoming. Graduate Orientation was a success -- over 300 participating. Enrollment is up this year. 22% up with new & continuing students. Retention has dropped somewhat, however. Teaching academy has been reaching out to TAs, Dr. Vasquez strongly recommends that TA's go to workshops. Fill out programs of study ASAP. Strong push from the Graduate School. New motto for Graduate School. NSF grant on financial literacy to fund some workshops this November.
  - b. **International Student & Scholar Services (Michael Schmelzle):** Provost for Int'l programs has retired. Immigration concerns that affect students, faculty, staff, etc. Unlawful Presence memo means that unlawful presence begins at the date of original infraction. Alarming rises in discretionary visa denials, especially from Middle East. Visa cancellation by CBP are on the rise, especially on arrival. Travel ban has been upheld, so visas are getting even more difficult. Use of medicare, etc., is becoming a reason to deny visa. More site visits to the point of harassment. Processing time for immigration benefits is getting quite a lot longer. International students now face high charges to even apply to come to the US. OPT might become unavailable (not certain what that is).
  - c. **Faculty Senate:** Nothing important
  - d. **Financial Aid:** Nothing to report. Query about Scholar Dollars account for graduate students. Currently geared towards undergrads, and written by the Foundation, with little mind given towards to graduate students. The Foundation has the final say, and are purported to be inflexible, partly due to requirements.