

Graduate Council Meeting Summary

- Meadows		Anthony Petrosino- Simmons	x
Kevin Hofeditz Meadows	x	James E. Quick ORGS	x
Alan Itkin- ORGS	x	Dinesh Rajan Lyle	x
Duncan MacFarland Lyle	x	Johannes Tausch Dedman III	x
Renee McDonald Dedman	x	Paul Yovanoff Simmons	x

Introductions and Charge of the Graduate Council

Dean Quick opened with introductions of Council members and welcome to the new member, Tony Petrosino. Dr. Petrosino is representing the Simmons School, where he is Associate Dean for Research and Outreach and Professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning.

Dean Quick reviewed the charge of the Graduate Council and described what the committee has accomplished to date.

The Council has developed policy that currently appear in the Graduate Office section of the Graduate Catalog. These policies lay the groundwork for defining the role and responsibilities of the

Administrative Functions of the Graduate School with Regards to Ph.D. Students

Assistant Dean Itkigave an overview of the plan in the Task Force Report for the establishment of

currently handle most of these responsibilities. The lack of operational details provided caused concern for whether the office, in its expanded role, would provide an adequate level of service, particularly in time sensitive tasks. Dean Quick said that, rather than providing operational details for the Council's approval, it was part of the Council's role to deliberate and determine operational details. Dean Quick suggested that Council members research how these functions are handled in their schools before the next meeting so that operational details could then be fleshed out with Council members' input.

Responsible Conduct of Research:

Dean Quick explained that responsible conduct of research training for graduate students is overseen by both sides of ORGS—graduate studies and research. Because this training is a requirement of the federal agencies that provide research grants, currently, SMU Ph.D. students funded on federal grants attend a one-day (8-hour) seminar by the Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies and the Assistant Vice President for Research Integrity and Operations. Faculty are not involved, but video vignettes from SMU faculty are shown during the seminar. Master's students funded on federal grants do online CITI training. No credit appears on students' transcripts for this training. ORGS has added milestones to transcripts for students who did the training in Spring '19. Dean Quick mentioned that a credit for responsible conduct of research

NSF Requirements

in place to provide appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research. Requires that institutions have a plan to provide appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research. Research training will be provided by NSF to postdoctoral students, students

Assistant Dean Itkiv provided a comparison of how several schools are providing responsible conduct of research training. Duke University, for example, only does in-person training. All Ph.D. students do six hours of training at orientation and three two-hour elective seminars—12 hours total (School of Medicine Ph.D. students do more). Master's students do four hours of training at orientation and one two-hour elective (six hours total). Faculty can propose elective courses; departments can also propose to have a course or seminar they already offer carry RCR credit (only up to two hours of RCR credit).

Assistant Dean Itki also went through responsible conduct of research training programs and requirements at Vanderbilt, Notre Dame, and Northwestern (see slides 19-17 in the accompanying PowerPoint presentation).

Assistant Dean Itki went through some key takeaways: 1) SMU is not currently following NIH requirements and recommendations, in particular on faculty participation, training for scholars at all levels (including postdocs), and in spreading training out over multiple sessions; 2) we are behind aspirational peers in only making NSF-funded students do the training and in not following the NIH requirements and recommendations; 3) we don't have accurate records of students who have done training; 4) SMU's current training is "one size fits all"—all students get the same training, regardless of discipline.

Assistant Dean Itki talked about possible policies and procedures for responsible conduct of research training which the Graduate Council might recommend: requiring that all Ph.D. students and postdocs do 8 hours of in-person training in their first year; having Ph.D. students and postdocs do a four-hour core course (led by ORGS) plus two-hour faculty-led electives spread across their first year and requiring master's students on federal grants to do the same; recruiting and compensating faculty in different disciplines to develop electives; adding the training as a course on students' transcripts. We are currently getting this on students' transcripts as a milestone, but having a class for which students register and receive credit would ensure more accurate records.

Postdoctoral Appointments (Introduction by Associate Provost Patty Alvey)

This has some urgency to it because some anticipated postdoctoral appointments. Dean Quick stated that the Graduate School Taskforce had recommended that postdocs fall under the purview of the graduate school to facilitate postdoctoral hiring and manage support services for postdocs. There are currently pressing issues, though, concerning whether postdocs should be allowed to teach, and if so, how much. Perhaps "postdoc" is not the right category for some of these positions.

The Council needs to define a postdoctoral position, with an understanding of what constraints exist if they are to continue being staff positions. Dean Quick stated that he favors the Vanderbilt model in