
1. **Excellence in Research Award**: Presented to Michelle Matheny. Michelle was present to accept the award. She was accompanied by the three professors who served on her thesis committee: Dr. Chamberlain, Dr. McAlister and Dr. Raschke.

2. **Minutes**: A motion to approve the minutes from November 19, 2015 was made by Haims/Heischmidt. Minutes were then approved by the council.

3. **Reports**:  
   a. **Dean’s Report**:  
      GR 609: McAllister noted the Board of Regents approved the recommendation to remove the $50 fee for GR 609 beginning next fall, 2017. This fee will be replaced by a $100 fee for GR 698, 699 or 799.

      Faculty Senate: The Faculty Senate discussed the rotation of membership for Graduate Council. At the end of this academic year, Graduate Council will have an unusually large rotation of membership. A decision to extend the memberships for one representative from COSTA, COLA and the Harrison College of Business was approved for the upcoming academic year.

4. **Action Items**:  
   a. **Revisions for three TESOL Courses**:  
      - TL 530 Practicum in TESOL  
      - TL 585 Methods & Curriculum Teach ELLs  
      - TL 650 Strat/Tech Teach Academic ELLs

      A motion to approve the minor revisions for the TESOL Program was made by Gathman/Roeder. The Council then moved for approval.

5. **Informational Items**:  
   b. Criminal Justice – Community Policing Option – Deletion
c. MBA Program – Moving from GR 699 to GR 698 for degree completion. This program is in alignment with programs offered throughout the United States. Students will continue to have the option to complete a thesis if they choose.

6. **Recommendation for Graduate Faculty Status:**
   a. Lockhart, Floyd H. III  English  Associate Graduate Faculty Status
   
   b. Walling, Breanna  English  Adjunct
   (Breanna’s request for Graduate Faculty Status was denied. However, she will be provided with a waiver to continue teaching classes at the graduate level.)

7. **Other:**
   A. Julie Grueneberg from the Registrar’s Office noted students are applying for graduation seemingly confused about GR 609/GR 698, 699, 799. Julie made the request for departments to share this final course information with their advisees. Advisors can go to Degree Works to note the requirements for each student.

   b. Julie Grueneberg also noted those student wishing to graduate in summer but participate in commencement in Spring or Fall must first enroll in summer courses (beginning February 15). They should then apply for graduation (due February 19th). On that application, students can check the box of the semester they choose to participate in commencement.

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**Next Graduate Council Meeting:**  February 18, 2016, 8:30-10:00 a.m., Dempster 102