

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES – SPECIAL MEETING

Graduate Council Minutes

November 5, 2015

UC Indian Room

Members: Present: McAllister, presiding; Ahmed, Bawaneh, Brown-Haims, Gathman, Gause, Grueneberg, Humphrey, Kilburn, Mardanov, McCollum, McFerron, Nguyen, Roeder, Timlin, Walling, Wang, Avila. **Visitors:**

Dr. McAllister thanked everyone for coming to this special meeting on short notice. He explained the purpose of the meeting involved further conversation regarding GR 609 – Graduate Thesis or Creative Project Development. McAllister shared at both Executive Staff and Deans meetings, the discussion for revising GR 609 had been discussed. Therefore, the meeting with Graduate Council was necessary to determine their thoughts regarding a possible revision.

A handout entitled **Graduate Council: Revisions to Graduate Fees** (see attached) was provided to the group. McAllister noted the original proposal, March 27, 2014, involved implementing a nonrefundable flat fee for GR 698/699/799. A suggested revision of GR 609 involves going back to the original proposal of charging \$100 each time the student enrolls in GR 698, 699, 799 with no refunds.

In addition, McAllister also noted the continuation of GR 609. This would however not carry a fee. Students would take GR 609 each semester they attend at Southeast Missouri State University. However, we would discontinue enrolling students in GR 609 when they have not been enrolled in coursework for two consecutive semesters.

With the new process for enrolling in GR 609, students would continue to be tracked for progress toward completion of their degree. It would also provide those working students, who can only take one course a semester, to continue without being penalized by charging an additional fee each semester.

Conversation was opened for Graduate Council members to share their thoughts on whether to proceed with this process. It was noted that students who were not enrolled in classes would continue to have access to the library and email. Gathman noted this would maintain the status of using these privileges while an unenrolled student. Several members found this to be a perk for students who take a semester off while still working on their thesis or creative project.

Haims and Humphrey questioned why we couldn't use a model of having students enrolled in GR 609 only when they are not enrolled in classes. They suggested a fee to be tied to this as well as noting this method would provide a tracking process. Other members noted this would require extra administrative hours to implement such a model.

A motion was made by Gathman/Walling to endorse the elimination of the \$50 fee for GR 609 and implement a \$100 fee (non-refundable) for enrolling in GR 698/699/799. Graduate Council members voted unanimously in support.

McAllister made a final note regarding GR 609 and graduate assistants. He noted that when the fee attached to GR 609 began, all graduate assistants received coverage for this fee. However, they lost the coverage for a year of preferred parking. This was done to offset the cost associated with GR 609. McAllister noted an administrative intent to refund actual GA parking costs for 2015-16 with the plan to continue paying for GA parking in future years, although doing so could mean the loss of one GA position to the campus.

The next regular meeting of Graduate Council will be held Thursday, November 19th in the UC Indian Room. The meeting time is 8:30-10:00 am.