McCausland Graduate Committee Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2025
Petigru 321, 2:00-3:00 PM

Present: Sheryl Wiskur (interim chair), Alexander Duncan, David Hitchcock, Jelena Jankovic, Gretchen Woertendyke
Ex Officio: Tracy Weldon, Sonya Brown, Anurav Das (GSA)
Invited Guests: Jean Ellis

Absent: Brett Sherman, Eric Holt

-Jean Ellis (Secretary to the Faculty) reviewed the College Bylaws the Chair's responsibilities.

-The committee has a TEAMS space where members can post documents, agendas, etc.

-All meetings need to be held in person.

-This is an advisory committee that advises upper administration about graduate students.

-Term lengths were determined. Since this is a new committee, term lengths were varied between 1 and 3 years, so that there will always be experienced people on the committee.

- Alexander Duncan, MATH – 1 year
- David Hitchcock, STAT – 2 year - chair
- D. Eric Holt, DLLC – 3 year
- Jelena Jankovic-Rankovic, ANTH – 1 year
- Brett Sherman, PHIL – 3 year
- Sheryl Wiskur, CHEM – 3 year
- Gretchen Woertendyke, ENGL – 2 year

Brainstorm of topics that the committee could consider looking at this year:

- Stipend – how to raise
- Recruitment of students
- Time to degree – how to support students
- How to speed up travel reimbursement for students
- Social connections with graduate students and faculty – events?

- Parking
- Summer assistantship – more opportunities for students to get paid
- Graduate student housing
- Foreign student information before coming here (housing options, etc.)
- Outside department person on doctoral committees – how to get more people from other departments/schools to say yes

More training for faculty that advise students

Grievance policies for graduate students – do all departments have a policy in place? If not, develop one?

-David Hitchcock volunteered to serve as chair of the committee for 2025-26. Unanimous vote yes.

Notes taken by: Sheryl Wiskur