

UNMC GSA Officers and Committees

January Meeting Agenda

January 29, 2015
11am-12pm
DRC Atrium

1. Announcements: **Deferred due to time constraints**
2. Action Items:
 - a. **Umbrella Graduate Program Committee Updates and Feedback - Hollie**
 - i. **Updates on decisions that have been agreed on**
 1. Name – Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences
 2. Generic name for individual programs – Graduate Programs (not Focus Areas)
 3. The common program chair should be reviewed annually by the administration
 4. Individual graduate programs may, if they choose, have a student representative on their committee **GSA recommends that a student representative on the graduate program committees should be required or strongly recommended**
 5. Mentors/the chair should confirm that a lab has sufficient funds before it takes a student.
 6. Comprehensive exam
 - ii. **Requested feedback on specific issues**
 1. Should the individual graduate programs or the common program notify the grad studies office of the acceptance (committed and/or uncommitted?) **The graduate program of a committed student is responsible for notifying graduate studies office, the common program of uncommitted student is responsible for notifying graduate studies office. Based on who is currently paying for the student as they have the most investment into ensuring where students go.**
 2. Minimum GPA/GRE **GSA recommends no minimum GPA or minimum GRE scores. However if the committee feels a minimum must be established we recommend that the GPA minimum be no higher than 3.0.**
 3. Co-mentors **GSA recommends alerting all students (especially those in labs with >8 students) that they can have a co-mentor to ensure they receive individual attention during their graduate career. This should not be required.**

4. Curriculum
5. External funding **GSA recommends that no formal mandate for applying for external fellowships be imposed on students, though it should be strongly recommended and encouraged.**

Thank you for your input today at our officers and committee meeting today. We will be taking a dual-pronged approach to this situation:

- 1) Hollie will return to the committee with our feedback and try to make the currently proposed umbrella program as good as possible
- 2) Heather will spearhead writing an official letter to Dr. Davies that expresses our concerns with the program. The goal of this is to be very specific about what we think will work well in the umbrella program and which pieces we have some serious concerns about and offer an action (or multiple actions) that Dr. Davies and the graduate council can make to try and address our concerns. I will be sending this out for editing by each of you in the near future.

Since this umbrella program is technically confidential at the moment, please keep this information to yourselves, though if you can get student feedback without going into details I think that kind of information will be valuable. After we have a draft of our letter for Dr. Davies, Hollie and I would like us all to sit down again (without a time constraint) to speak exclusively about this situation.

If you have any specifics about what you like or don't like with the umbrella policy please send them to me for incorporation into the first draft of this letter.

The Remainder of the Agenda was deferred due to time constraints