

**Graduate Administrators' Council (GAC)**  
**Minutes for Thursday, December 11, 2014**  
**College of Education – Dean's Conference Room, Room 118**  
**9:00 am to 10:30 am**

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Attendees: Robert Wojtowicz, Chair, Kevin Depew, Brian Payne, Gail Dickinson, Bill Heffelfinger, Ali Ardalan, Richardean Benjamin, David Earnest, David Selover, Andres Sousa-Poza

Guests: Morris Foster, Vice President for Research  
Chandra de Silva, Vice Provost for Faculty and Program Development

**Tuition Waivers – Morris Foster**

- Dr. Wojtowicz introduced Morris Foster, Vice President for Research, to the Graduate Administrators' Council and opened the discussion on tuition waivers and grant budgets.
- Dr. Foster advised Council that after March, 2015, principle investigators will be required to include tuition waivers in the budgets submitted for grant proposals. He shared his experience with his prior institution, explaining their implementation process and said within three to four years, they had an increase in students. More importantly, they were able to attract students of a higher caliber.
- He also explained the state budget is not looking good for next year, so any augmentation is a good idea. He also suggested adding in the health insurance subsidy as a fringe item.
- Dr. Foster advised that almost all universities were including tuition and fringe benefits costs in their grant budgets, so it will not create a disadvantage for ODU to be competitive in requesting grants.
- A question was raised as to whether or not to budget the instate or out of state rate. Dr. Foster said some schools, like VCU and George Mason, budget the instate rate, however, since we do not have the budget to make up the difference, the out of state rate should be used.
- Dr. Sousa-Poza expressed concern with the impact to smaller projects, stating that it could cause an additional 30% increase in overhead expenses.
- Council asked if different budget models were considered.
- Dr. Morris suggested the possibility of a tuition pool; however, there are issues with federal accounting requirements. Funds from one grant cannot be used to supplement another.
- Dr. Dickinson said that grants within the College of Education require a 1 to 1 cost match, so this would require \$50,000 be added in for each student. They do not have the additional resources to cover that expense. She also asked about start-up packages. Dr. Morris said that the Office of Research will continue to subsidize those expenses. Dr. Dickinson said that historically, the bulk of the waivers are given in Sciences and Engineering so students are not expecting to get a waiver as an option.
- Dr. Morris said there are options with tuition waivers that are not used for grants. He said that RAs can be reduced to six hours. He advised that some grants will only pay for six hours.
- With regard to start-up packages and doctoral students' funding, Dr. Morris said that they need to determine what to invest for next year. They are looking cautiously at non-equipment start-

- Dr. Morris asked about alternatives for small grants and cost matching and how to handle them under the current policy.
- Dr. Sousa

## **Announcements**

- The upcoming deadlines for the Outstanding GTA Awards and the Doctoral Mentoring Award were discussed. Revised Calls for Nominations were included with the listing of deadlines.
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