

## **Graduate Student Advisory Council**

### **Rationale**

The Graduate Student Council effectively supports graduate and professional programs housed in the Oklahoma Baptist University's College of Graduate and Professional Studies (CGPS). The primary purpose of the Graduate Student Council is to serve as a resource and a connection to adult students in various programs in the College of Graduate and Professional Studies. While Graduate Student Council members provide a collaborative representation of the student body, there remains a responsibility for program specific representation.

Graduate Student Council members at the individual program level can make important contributions by keeping faculty apprised of business and industry needs, and assisting the CGPS through identification of new opportunities for program development and emerging market needs. Members can also support the CGPS by identifying opportunities to increase student satisfaction in conjunction with recommendations for continuous improvement of programs.

Graduate Student Councils are an important part of the College of Graduate and Professional Studies. The expertise and experience of OBU students from business, industry, and field work plays an integral role in providing high-quality programs, in addition to fostering the development of a trained and educated workforce.

Graduate Student Council members must meet a minimum of twice a year. Meetings may alternate between campuses (Shawnee and Oklahoma City) to foster collaboration. Current rosters, agendas, and minutes must be maintained at all meetings. Attendance should be recorded.

### **Selecting Student Advisory Council Members**

Successful graduate and professional programs are the result of cooperative efforts by key partners. Graduate Student Council members should include representatives from each program within the College of Graduate and Professional Studies. Representation on the committee should reflect populations within the community, including persons from both genders, and racial and ethnic minorities. The majority of six to eight Graduate Student Council members selected must be current students actively practicing within their occupation. Additional members may include current students or graduates from Oklahoma Baptist University's College of Graduate and Professional Studies.

### **Terms of Service**

Most institutions prefer to set a time limit for Graduate Student Council members. This procedure promotes a continuous flow of new ideas that helps keep the committee's advice current and relevant. As many programs can be completed in 18-24 months, a two year consecutive term of service is recommended. The two year service commitment provides the following advantages:

- Terms are long enough for members to become thoroughly familiar with their respective program and purpose of their role as Council members.
- Members are more likely to give their time freely when the term of service is predetermined.
- Members in the final year of their respective program have the benefit of experience while newly appointed members provide fresh ideas and perspective.

## **Roles of Graduate Student Advisory Council**

Graduate Student Council members can perform a wide variety of functions. Members serve without pay and have no legal status to change or implement policy or policy changes. Members should work collaboratively to determine appropriate roles and direction on an annual basis. The following lists include activities that may provide direction on how Graduate Student Council members help improve CGPS programs.

### **Curriculum and Instruction**

- Compare content with occupational competencies and tasks
- Advise on labor market needs and trends

### **Program Review**

- Participate in program evaluation as needed
- Assess student performance standards to ensure proper alignment with industry standards
- Identify new and emerging occupations
- Assist in short and long-term planning for program improvement

### **Recruitment and Job Placement**

- Assist in identifying work-based learning experiences
- Expand placement opportunities

### **Community / Public Relations**

- Promote OBU's CGPS programs to employers, and communities
- Assist in recognizing outstanding students, faculty, staff, and community leaders
- Assist in the development of annual marketing plans
- Recommend future Graduate Student Council members

### **Resources**

- Provide input on budget, facilities, and equipment needs