

**Minutes of the Graduate School Advisory Council  
General Assembly Meeting  
October 18, 2019.  
Venue: Underground Loft of the Union, M.L.K.**

Godwin Gyimah, Vice President of Administrative Activities of the Graduate School Advisory Council, moderated the meeting at 11:03 a.m by introducing the Ph.D. panel and provided them with guidance for the discussion.

**Ph.D. Panel Discussion**

**Dr. Mark Dries**

- Research more about your field and what you think will work best for you. You must think why you want to pursue Graduate school. Be sure you want to pursue graduate education. Know your passion and the project you want to do.
- Study and know what you want your future to be and the job market availabilities . Your end goals important.
- Think about who you are going to work with not only about the reputation of the school. Besides, you need a faculty member with a high standard who can help you in your dissertation and publication.
- Get in touch with the Graduate school to know more about assistantship positions. This enables you to know the financial assistantships available.
- Doctoral education demands a lot of sacrifices which comes from both your end and that of friends and family members.
- Prior to entering your Doctoral program, know the skills you need to build up and make sure you build upon your skills.
- Always find a balance for your life. There will be a combination of things and doing so helps in your commitment and preparation towards future life

**Dr. Yolanda Williams**

- Ph.D. life is more of a struggle. It got to a point when twelve out of all the candidates failed their comprehensive exams. She then had to switch to Indiana State University.
- She advised potential students to check whether professors in the institution they are applying for are publishing or not.
- She was a professional and she needed flexible schedule to navigate the weeks and this influence her choice of school.
- Doctoral program requires assistance from other individuals. Though she was single, she had support from friends and family members who advise her.
- Each period comes with a new challenge and it is always advisable to never give up but keep working on yourself.

**Dr. Danessa Carter**

- The biggest problem was on the school to choose since all the schools she applied for offered her admission. Due to her contact with Northern Illinois University, she settled on Northern Illinois. Besides, they had given her a Graduate Assistantship offer which was pleasant.
- It is prudent to research more about the publishing and interest of faculty since they are the individuals to mentor you.

**Dr. Jon Coleman**

- Focus on the availability of cohort to support in your research work.
- Always examine the flexibility of the institution and the program. The University of Georgia had both Part-Time and Full-Time admission and this he sees as more flexible.
- He also realized the faculty members had interest which interweaves with his own.
- It is also important to examine what the Alumni of the institution is doing and the institution's graduation rate.
- Doing presentation, posters, and attending conferences help in building you up and opens you to more networking for the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted by**

Godwin Gyimah

Vice President- Administrative Activities