Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Senate
February 24, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Doug Bowles at 3:30 pm in S203 Memorial Union.

Senators and administrative representatives attending: Doug Bowles, Newton D’Souza, Jeni Hart, Moses Hdeib, Harvey James, Jill Kanaley, Tracy Kitchel, Earnest Perry, Janine Stichter, Carlos Wexler, Kenneth Bryant, Jr. (Graduate Student Association), Leona Rubin, Terrence Grus, Ashley Siebenaler, Ruth Erwin (Graduate School), and Robin Harris (visitor).

Senators and administrative representatives absent: Sounak Chakraborty, Rajeev Darolia, Craig Kluever, Charles Nilon, Jeff Pasley, and Ton Stam.

A motion and second were made to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2015 meeting. The motion was approved.

Dr. Bowles presented the agenda for the meeting. The agenda was approved.

Special business for the day

Graduate Student Association report

Mr. Bryant read a letter he had received from a group of teaching assistants in the School of Information Science and Learning Technologies. The letter was prompted by the recent reminder the Office of Graduate Studies sent to faculty, staff and Ph.D. students that students cannot teach courses at the 7000 level and above. The group was requesting GSA work with MU administration to mitigate the issue. The letter stated that because SILST only confers two degrees (M.A. and Ph.D.) it provided very few courses under the 7000 level. The students felt the policy compromises their future employability.

Dr. Rubin explained that this policy was reinforced because the University is undergoing an accreditation review. She indicated that the policy had been approved by the Graduate Faculty many years ago and had not been policed well lately. The problem arose as the graduate students are being listed as the instructor of record in myZou. Students can continue to be teaching assistants in the courses. She indicated that departments are able to make exceptions to the policy and some have been approved. Exceptions to the policy must be made on a semester by semester basis.

Mr. Bryant was going to take the information to the GSA meeting and discuss it with them.

Office of Graduate Studies

Dr. Rubin announced that Tracy Kitchel would become the Assistant Vice Provost for Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs beginning March 1. She also announced that an announcement would be made soon for individuals who would like to be considered as Preparing Future Faculty Post Doc fellows for next year. This is a program that allows recent doctoral graduates to teach two courses and participate in research prior to accepting their first academic position. This allows the Fellows the opportunity to see what it is like to be faculty. This year the Office of Graduate Studies was able to fund 8 Fellows but one of the Fellows had the opportunity to take a full-time academic position. This is a three year program with half of the funding coming from money the Office of Graduate Studies received from the Chancellor’s Office and half of the funding from the department who employs the Fellow.
Dr. Rubin indicated a future issue that will require Senate discussion is a new issue with graduate edge. It is holistic admission that would be done with the Hobsons Corporation which handles the graduate application process. It is an admissions plan that looks at more than a student’s grades but can include learning and work experiences.

She said that a survey to departments regarding increasing the TOEFL scores did not net any negative responses.

**Other new business**

Dr. Robin Harris discussed a need for dual emphasis areas. This topic came up last year in the School of Nursing when a student wanted a second master’s degree with a different emphasis area. This had not happened in the past. Legal counsel and myZou allowed the awarding of a second masters in the same department with a different emphasis area. GFS determines the number of hours for emphasis areas and how many emphasis areas can be received. Dr. Harris said that Nursing has six emphasis areas. She is preparing a proposal for the next GFS meeting to outline how they would like to allow students to have more than one emphasis area within their degrees and how many hours can be overlapping in each emphasis area. She said this would be attractive for the Nursing students. She indicated that the emphasis areas needed to be transcriptable for accreditation purposes. The Senators need to consider if they want to create a policy for emphasis areas, overlapping hours, or do case by case requests.

**Unfinished Business**

Proposal to raise minimum required TOEFL for MU graduate admission to 79

A motion and second were made to approve the raising of the TOEFL score for graduate applicants to 79. Discussion followed on feedback individuals had received from their constituents. It was noted that it was always possible to request a waiver if an applicant is not at the minimum. The motion was approved with a voice vote.

A motion and second were include minimum sub scores in departments. Discussion followed. The motion was amended to increase the TOEFL score to 80 with a sub score of 20 in each category. The motion was approved.

Consideration of preliminary proposal for a M.S. and Ph.D. in Food and Hospitality Systems

A motion and second were made to approved the preliminary proposal for a M.S. and Ph.D. in Food and Hospitality Systems. The motion was approved.

Proposed revisions to GFS By-laws

Approval by GFS prior to submitting to Graduate Faculty for ratification

Dr. Bowles indicated that there have not a lot changes made since the recommendations made by last year’s GFS which suspended the by-laws discussions until the outcome of the Task Force on Graduate Education was completed.

An issue brought up by the former GSA President was the removal of voting rights for the GSA President. Rationale for this change included students did not need to vote on curriculum matters and students are not members of the graduate faculty who are the elected representatives for the graduate faculty. A motion and second were made to reinstate the Graduate Student Association with voting rights on the Graduate Faculty Senate. Discussion
followed. The motion failed. Dr. Bowles indicated that by not allowing the GSA President to vote protected the students and their organization from matters that might come to the Senate.

Dr. Rubin has a question with regard to the different graduate faculty status. She asked about the term “temporary.” A motion and second were made to change the levels of graduate faculty status to A, B, C with A being full graduate faculty status and C being temporary status. The motion was approved.

A motion and second were made to add the Graduate and Professional Council President or a representative to the GFS as a nonvoting member. Discussion followed. GSA serves as the academic arm of the graduate students while GPC handles both graduate and professional students’ needs. The motion was denied.

**Reports of Committee**

**Academic Affairs**

Dr. Nilon submitted the report for the Committee earlier.

The academic affairs committee reviewed the Food and Hospitality Sciences graduate degree proposal and recommends approval. (This requires a vote.)

The academic affairs committee reviewed the following courses and recommends that you approve the courses listed as approved or approved pending revision to syllabus.

- **AG_S_M 4366** Data Management and Analysis Using Precision Agriculture Technology -- approved pending revision of grade scale
- **AG_S_M 4368** Profit Strategies Using Precision Agriculture Technology – approved pending revision of grading scale
- **ATM_SC 8085** Problems in Atmospheric Science -- approve
- **BL_STU 7020** Studies in Black Feminist Thought – approved pending cross-listed syllabus
- **ECE 7440** Power Systems Analysis – roll back to department
- **ECE 8800** Sensor Array and Statistical Signal Processing – roll back to department
- **GEOL 8300** Precambrian History – roll back to department
- **INFOINST 7002** Introduction to Informatics – approve
- **INFOINST 8085** Problems in Informatics – approve
- **PH_THR 8945** Clinical Education IV – approve
- **PH_THR 8950** Clinical Education V – approve
- **PSYCH 9365** Positive Psychology – roll back to department

A motion and second were made to approve the Academic Affairs report. The motion was approved.

A motion and second were made to submit the By-laws to the graduate faculty for a vote. The motion was approved.

Due to the lateness of the meeting it was decided to table the subcommittee reports until the March meeting.

**Other new business continued**

**Accelerated Master’s degree**
A proposal for a template for offering accelerated graduate degree program was presented. This would not be a new degree program. It would be for exceptional students who have a cumulative GPA of > 3.5 and have completed at least 90 hours which includes all general education and academic program requirements. Programs cannot consider nor admit students with a lower GPA or fewer than 90 credit hours; however, individual programs can set these eligibility requirements at a higher level (e.g., 3.8 cumulative GPA; 105 credit hours). Once a student has completed 90 credit hours, they would be admitted as a **provisional graduate student** to accelerated graduate degree programs. Students can take up to 15 hours of credit that would count toward both the undergraduate and graduate degrees (shared credits). As a provisional graduate student, the student would be charged at the undergraduate rate for their coursework. Once a student obtains 120 hours, the bachelor’s degree will be conferred and they would become a **graduate student**, which would give them the rights and responsibilities of all graduate students at the University of Missouri. They would then be charged at the graduate rate for the coursework. Students would be required to enroll as full-time graduate students at MU for a minimum of one academic year and a minimum of 18 graduate credits must be obtained after the bachelor’s degree is conferred. This advantage to the program is that it would keep outstanding students here and encourage them to pursue a Ph.D. Any program can apply for the accelerated program. The department’s proposal for an accelerated degree program would be submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies for review and then forward to the Graduate Faculty Senate for their review and approval. After approval by the GFS the proposal is forwarded to the Provost’s Office for review to determine if it fits the overall mission of the University and is approved or denied. Accelerated graduate programs will be reviewed as an independent program via the Program Assessment process, which occurs approximately every 5 years. The Senate asked what the financial implications would be for accelerated graduate programs.

A motion and second were made to adjourn the meeting. It was approved and the meeting adjourned at 5:03 pm.

Submitted by

Ruth Erwin
Graduate Studies