Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Senate
September 22, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Janine Stichter at 10:30 a.m. in N103B (Stotler II) Memorial Union.

Senators and administrative representatives attending: Heather Carver, Sounak Chakraborty, Newton D’Souza, Keith Greenwood, Moses Hdeib, Catherine Peterson (for Pam Hinton), Craig Kluever, Tony Lupo, Azlin Mustapha, Cheryl Offutt, Janine Stichter, Carlos Wexler, Kenneth Bryant, Jr. (Graduate Student Association), Terrence Grus, Tracy Kitchel, Ashley Siebenaler, and Ruth Erwin (Graduate Studies).

Senators and administrative representatives absent: Rajeev Darolia, Dan French, and Leona Rubin.

A motion and second were made to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2015 meeting. The motion was approved.

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

**Special business of the day**

**Welcome newly elected Senators**

Introductions were made by everyone present so that the newly elected Senators were introduced to the returning Senators and administrative staff from the Office of Graduate Studies.

**Election of Member at Large 2015-16**

Dr. Darolia was elected as Member at Large at the April meeting. He has teaching responsibilities this semester and would like to step down as Member at Large. Dr. Lupo volunteered to be the Member at Large and serve on the GFS Executive Committee. A motion and second were made to approve Dr. Lupo as Member at Large. The motion was approved.

**Representation of GFS at Faculty Council**

Dr. Lupo gave background on Faculty Council allowing organizations to have individuals attend the Faculty Council meetings. Dr. D’Souza indicated that he was substituting on the Faculty Council this year and would be willing to serve in this role for the GFS. Having someone attend Faculty Council meetings would allow for more communication between the two groups on issues of graduate education. A question was raised whether someone should be elected each year to attend the Faculty Council meetings. It was decided that Dr. D’Souza would give feedback after a couple months to determine whether there was a need to have an election every year to have someone serve as GFS representative to attend Faculty Council meetings.
Graduate Student Association Report

Mr. Bryant indicated that this has been an interesting month for graduate students. He announced that GSA will hold its CV Doc event on October 15. This event is an opportunity for graduate students to speak with faculty and go over their CV’s and get recommendations of changes/improvements students can make. Mr. Bryant said the GSA and graduate student leaders have learned that there is a not a formal mechanism for graduate students to address issues they are having on campus or with their program. Dr. Kitchel in the Office of Graduate Studies deals with some student issues. GSA feels there is a need to meet with graduate student representatives and then work with individuals to determine safe places where students can get assistance in getting issues resolved. He said that GSA believes that graduate students and administrators and faculty need to have better relationships. So GSA is inviting administrators to their meetings so that graduate students can meet with administrators and learn how the administrative structure works on the campus. Mr. Bryant indicated that Dr. Rubin has already attended one of their meetings.

Office of Graduate Studies Report

Dr. Kitchel reported in the absence of Dr. Rubin. He indicated that there are two task forces meeting on graduate issues. One is on the health insurance issue and that group is meeting weekly and progressing well. Their report is due out by November 30. It was noted that there is a push by departments to have the report completed sooner so that departments will know the status before recruitment season begins. The other task force is the Graduate Student Experience. Dr. Kitchel is one of the co-chairs and Mr. Bryant is also a member. The task force meeting every other week and will have its report completed by the end of the semester. Committee recommendations are due next week with an overarching recommendation and how units can help with recruitment. On the tuition waiver policy, students are grandfathered through Summer 2016. Discussion is continuing on campus about the issue. Dr. Kitchel announced that the Office of Graduate Studies is planning to submit graduate student award nominations beyond the campus this year.

Dr. Kitchel announced that the Office of Graduate Studies has two new Faculty Fellows this year. Dr. Sam Cohen will work on two projects this year. One will be developing TA development proposal for training graduate students who teach courses and the other will be a handbook project similar to one developed at KU. It will look at what departments are sharing with graduate students on departmental policies and requirements. Dr. Michael Garcia will work with the pipeline on recruitment of undergraduate students to MU.

Dr. Kitchel told the GFS that the Graduate Faculty status A, B, and C will need to come back to the Senate for more clarification. One possible recommended change is the renewal time for Status C from 2 years to 5 years since the normal timeframe for a doctoral degree is five years.

Dr. Carver announced that the Chair of the Mathematics Department, endorsed by approximately 50 other Arts and Science Chairs, has sent a letter to Chancellor Loftin with regard to the unresolved issue of graduate student health and the adverse effect it would have on recruitment in the departments. Dr.
Carver offered that this letter could be sent to the GFS. Dr. Stichter agreed to forward the letter to the Senate to keep everyone current on campus discussions.

**Consideration by Senate of the role of AAC and Senate in reviewing courses**

For review of graduate courses, programs, and graduate certificates they proceed through a chain from department, to division, to the Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) of the GFS which review the courses and vote in the CIM system. After the required votes by the AAC the courses are presented to the GFS for vote, after the approval of the GFS the President votes and the courses are forwarded to Dr. Rubin for her vote. Dr. Stichter pointed out that GFS does not meet during the summer so courses that are entered into the CIM system in late April are not reviewed until the Fall Semester begins. A question with regard to review of courses is what AAC should look for when they review and approve courses. At times like the beginning of the Fall Semester the Committee can have 100 or more courses to review and approve. Another question is the departmental and divisional roles in the course approval process. Should the AAC be reviewing grading scale, ADA policy and if departments have vetted whether there are similar courses already being offered on campus? Discussion followed. The AAC agreed to meet separately and provide some recommendations to the GFS to enhance further discussion at a subsequent GFS meeting. No official action taken at this time.

**Consideration by the Senate by the appropriate oversight of name changes to courses and program**

Until at which time the AAC brings forth recommendations for changes, it was felt that AAC should continue to review graduate certificates, new graduate programs and name changes. Dr. Stichter announced that a representative has been invited to the October meeting to discuss the new emphasis in MS in Biomedical Sciences.

**Reports of Committee**

**Academic Affairs**

**Approval of pending new course requests**

Dr. Wexler presented the courses that have been approved by AAC to the GFS for their approval. He indicated that each course proposal needs to have three votes from the AAC before it can be forwarded to the Senate for their approval. The courses are:

- SOC_WK 9500: Pro Seminar I.
- SOC_WK 9600: Professional Seminar II.
- ACCTCY 8438 : Forensic Accounting
- ACCTCY 8363 : Multi-Jurisdictional Tax
- ACCTCY 8373 : Taxation of Corporations and Shareholders
- ACCTCY 8383 : Taxation of Flow-Through Entities
- ACCTCY 8393 : Taxation of Trust, Gifts and Estates
- ACCTCY 8404 : Internal Auditing
- ACCTCY 8408 : Advanced Accounting Information Systems
- ACCTCY 8414 : Information Systems Assurance and Control
ACCTCY 8419 : International Accounting
ACCTCY 8423 : Tax Research and Planning
ACCTCY 8424 : Fraud Examination
ACCTCY 8425 : Accounting for Governments and Other NonProfit Entities
ACCTCY 8428 : Data Warehousing and Data Mining
ACCTCY 8434 : Applications of Auditing Concepts
ACCTCY 8436 : Financial Accounting Theory and Practice III
ACCTCY 8437 : Strategic Cost Analysis
ACCTCY 8444 : Advanced Audit
ACCTCY 8446 : Application of Financial Accounting Pronouncements
ACCTCY 8448 : Emerging Issues in Accounting Information Systems
ACCTCY 8450 : Accounting and Strategic Business Analysis
ACCTCY 8453 : Taxes and Business Strategies
ACCTCY 8456 : Corporate Governance
AG_S_M 7366 : Data Management and Analysis Using Precision Agriculture Technology
AG_S_M 7368 : Profit Strategies Using Precision Agriculture Technology
ANTHRO 4385 : Anthropology of Shamanism
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AR_H_A 4120 : Gender and the Arts
AR_H_A 7120 : Gender and the Arts
BIO_SC 8070 : Professional Communication Development
BIOCHM 8434 : Signaling in Molecular Cell Biology
BL_STU 7020 : Studies in Black Feminist Thought
BL_STU 8510 : Ecology, Conservation, and Environmental Justice
CMP_SC 4530 : Cloud Computing
CMP_SC 7530 : Cloud Computing
ECE 7440 : Power Systems Analysis
FILM_S 4030 : Video Art and the Moving Image
FINANC 7840 : Angel Capital Education Program
FINANC 8632 : Corporate Insurance and Alternative Financing Mechanisms
GEOL 7150 : Structural Geology
HMI 4440 : Health Information Technology
HMI 7410 : Introduction to the US Health Care System
HMI 7566 : HIPAA, Social Media, and the Ethics of Health Information
HMI 7567 : Health Organizational Ethics
HMI 8450 : Methods of Health Services Research
HMI 8470 : Strategic Planning and Marketing for Health Care Organizations
HMI 8472 : Financial Management for Health Care Organizations
HMI 8544 : Managerial Epidemiology (Population Health Management)
HMI 8565 : Health Care Ethics
HMI 8573 : Decision Making for Health Care Organizations
HMI 8574 : Health Care Law
HMI 8610 : Consumer Health Informatics
HMI 8689 : Field Experience in Health Management and Informatics
JOURN 4148 : Interviewing Essentials
JOURN 4340 : Viewing Journalism Films: Images of the Reporter
JOURN 4360 : Fundamentals of Design
JOURN 4373 : Documentary Theory and Development
JOURN 4375 : Documentary Business and the Public Sphere
JOURN 4408 : Magazine Editing
JOURN 4410 : Intermediate Writing
JOURN 4412 : Lifestyle Journalism
JOURN 4416 : Science, Health and Environmental Writing
JOURN 4418 : Critical Reviewing
JOURN 4464 : Magazines Across Platforms
JOURN 4806 : Convergence Editing and Producing
JOURN 4814 : Multimedia Sports Journalism
JOURN 4984 : Magazine Staff
JOURN 4986 : Advanced Writing
JOURN 4988 : Advanced Publication Design
JOURN 4994 : Magazine Publishing
JOURN 7340 : Viewing Journalism Films: Images of the Reporter
JOURN 7360 : Fundamentals of Design
JOURN 7373 : Documentary Theory and Development
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JOURN 7412 : Lifestyle Journalism
JOURN 7416 : Science, Health and Environmental Writing
JOURN 7418 : Critical Reviewing
JOURN 7464 : Magazines Across Platforms
JOURN 7806 : Convergence Editing and Producing
JOURN 7984 : Magazine Staff
JOURN 7986 : Advanced Writing
JOURN 7988 : Advanced Publication Design
JOURN 7994 : Magazine Publishing
JOURN 8001 : Seminar on Topics in Journalism
JOURN 8090 : Research in Journalism
JOURN 8108 : News Reporting and Writing for the High School Advisor
JOURN 8110 : Editing and News Design for the High School Advisor
JOURN 8120 : Media Law and Ethics for the High School Advisor
JOURN 9016 : Advanced Seminar, Theory of Communication
JOURN 9090 : Research in Journalism
MAE 8710 : Advanced Hydraulic Control Systems
MICROB 7404 : Foundations in Bacteriology and Pathogenesis
MICROB 9085 : Problems in Microbiology
MICROB 9087 : Seminar in Microbiology
MICROB 9403 : Advanced Medical Microbiology
MUS_H_LI 4330 : Music of the Postmodern Era
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PEA_ST 4287 : Empire: Intellectual History, Literature, and Society
PEA_ST 4288 : Law and Society: Corporate and White Collar Crime and Malfeasance
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PEA_ST 7288 : Law and Society: Corporate and White Collar Crime and Malfeasance
PLNT_S 4550 : Plant Biotechnology
PLNT_S 4970 : Readings in Molecular Ecology of Herbivory
PLNT_S 7550 : Plant Biotechnology
POL_SC 9210 : Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
RA_SCI 4140 : Magnetic Resonance Imaging: Physics and Procedures
RA_SCI 7110 : Sectional Anatomy
RA_SCI 7140 : Magnetic Resonance Imaging: Physics and Procedures
RA_SCI 7150 : Computed Tomography: Physics and Procedures
RA_SCI 7946 : Advanced Medical Imaging Externship
REL_ST 4287 : Empire: Intellectual History, Literature, and Society
REL_ST 7287 : Empire: Intellectual History, Literature, and Society
SOC_WK 7000 : Professional Social Work Practice
SOC_WK 7740 : Large Group Theory
SOC_WK 7760 : Social Justice Seminar
It was noted that 4000/7000 courses separate into two course proposal when they come to the AAC. But the 4000 number is the one showing and that is the number AAC will approve under. A motion and second were made to approve all the courses. The motion was approved.

**Consideration of the proposal for new emphasis in MS in Biomedical Sciences**

This is postponed until the next meeting when a representative will attend and give the GFS and overview of the proposal.

**Consideration of name change for Psychological Sciences MA Program**

Dr. Wexler gave a brief overview on the request from the Department of Psychological Science to change the name of their Master’s Degree in Applied Psychometrics to Master’s Degree in Quantitative Psychometrics. The department had changed the name of the degree two years ago to Applied Psychometrics from Quantitative Psychology and since then they have received numerous applications from students who were confused about the content of the degree. They hope that the new name will better convey the nature of the program to potential applicants and remove some of the confusion. A motion and second were made to change the Psychological Science’s Master’s Degree in Applied Psychometrics to Master’s Degree in Quantitative Psychometrics. The motion was approve.

**Awards Committee**

Dr. Newton said that the Awards Committee did not have anything to report.

**Other new business**

**Revisit TOEFL minimum – email from X.H. Wang**

Dr. Wang from Economics had sent Dr. Stichter and the OGS an email expressing concerns regarding the subsection minimums within the new TOEFL scores policy approved last spring. Dr. Stichter provided context by sharing that last spring it was brought to the attention of the Senate that MU’s TOEFL scores was lower than other AAU’s. Dr. Rubin had data prepared on our counterparts TOEFL scores and sent
the information to chairs and directors for their comments. The GFS voted to increase the TOEFL score to a minimum of 80 with subset scores of 20 with the departments having the option of increasing their minimum scores higher. Mr. Grus told the group that the Office of Graduate Studies can make exceptions at the department’s request. Discussion followed. A motion and second were made to table the discussion on TOEFL until the next meeting while Mr. Grus researched more information on the minimum subset scores used by our peer institutions. The motion was approved.

Resolutions

There were none.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.

Submitted by

Ruth Erwin
Office of Graduate Studies