Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Senate Meeting  
April 22, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President Lee Wilkins at 3:00 pm in S304 Memorial Union.

Senators and administrative representatives attending: Lee Wilkins, Ian Aberbach, Stephanie Craft, Tom Dougherty, Mark Fine, Gail Fitzgerald, Margaret Grogan, Eileen Porter, Adam Helfer for Jan Segert, Paul Speckman, Steve Van Doren, Kate Hertweck (Graduate Student Association), and Pam Benoit, Sheryl Tucker, Jana Moore and Ruth Erwin (Graduate School).

Senators absent: Naz Islam, Anthony Lupo, and Ellie Ragland.

A motion and second were made to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2008 meeting with one change and the notes from the March 18, 2008 meeting. Motion was approved.

**Graduate School Report**

**Graduate Education Week**

Dr. Benoit gave a report on the highlights from Graduate Education Week. During the week there were workshops on applying to Graduate School, how to solicit letters of recommendation and personal statements, an awards ceremony to honor the Outstanding Department, MU Distinguished Thesis and Dissertation, Anderson Graduate Teaching and Research Assistants, and the Graduate Faculty Mentor awardees, an Open House sponsored by the Graduate School, a legislative reception hosted by Graduate Professional Council honoring eight legislators for service to MU, and the final event – Adventures in Graduate Education, which had an attendance of approximately 500 people.

**May 2008 Graduate School Degree Recipients**

Dr. Benoit presented the tentative graduation list for the May 16, 2008 Commencement. The list includes 1156 students receiving masters, educational specialist and doctoral degrees, 42 students receiving a certificate and 21 students receiving a graduate minor. A motion and second were made to approve the tentative list with the Graduate School having the right to revise the list as completion of degree requirements are certified. The motion was approved.

**Graduate Student Association**

Ms. Hertweck indicated that GSA sponsored Dianne Bystrom, who spoke on “Campaign 2008: Reflections and Predictions”. She also indicated that at the last GSA meeting the group elected new officers for 2008-2009 and that the GSA annual banquet would be held on April 24.

**Committee Reports**

**Academic Affairs**

Dr. Grogan indicated that the Academic Affairs had reviewed the three graduate certificates from Human Development and Family Studies. The certificates are for a graduate certificate in Youth Development Specialist, a graduate certificate in Youth Development Program Management and a graduate certificate in Gerontology. A motion and second were made to approve the three graduate certificates submitted by Human Development and Family Studies. The motion was approved.

Dr. Grogan indicated that the Academic Affairs had reviewed the graduate certificate submitted by Truman School of Public Affairs in Science and Public Policy. A motion and second were
made to approve the graduate certificate in Science and Public submitted by the Truman School of Public Affairs. The motion was approved.

A motion and second were made to approve the revised doctoral faculty criteria submitted by the Departments of Agricultural Economics and Special Education. The motion was approved.

Dr. Grogan indicated that the recent proposed curriculum changes reviewed by the Academic Affairs Committee did not have any conflicts that needed to be brought to the GFS.

A round of applause was given to the work accomplished this year by the Academic Affairs Committee.

**Awards Committee**

Dr. Porter indicated that the Committee had completed all its work this year and had provided suggestions for next year. She wanted to thank Gretchen LaButti in the Graduate School for her support to the Awards Committee this year.

**Old Business**

**Review of Proposal on Graduate Certificates**

Dr. Tucker proposed a change in the review process for graduate certificates. She indicated that primary change would be who reviewed the graduate certificates every five years. She proposed that the Graduate School would handle the review instead of the GFS. The current wording on the policy for review of graduate certificates is: “All graduate certificates will undergo review by the Graduate Faculty Senate after five years. Continuation will be awarded in five-year intervals provided each program shows student interest and financial viability.” The proposed wording is: “All graduate certificates will undergo review by the Graduate School after five years. Continuation will be awarded in five-year intervals provided each program shows a student interest and financial viability.”

Discussion followed regarding if the certificate was not successful would GFS review, what are the success rates of the certificate, review should look at more than student interest and financial viability. The group suggested adding faculty commitment, courses still being offered, and objectives proposed for the certificate are being met. A motion and second were made to approved the change in review of graduate certificates from the Graduate Faculty Senate to the Graduate School. The motion was approved. Dr. Tucker would include the following information to departments when their graduate certificates need to be reviewed:

1. Objectives of the graduate certificate are being met
2. Faculty commitment
3. Courses for the graduate certificate are still offered
4. Student interest
5. Financial viability for the graduate certificate.

When concerns and problems arise during the review of the graduate certificates the GFS would be involved.

**Update on Elections**

Dr. Speckman indicated that he is working on soliciting names for each ballot.

**New Business**

**Deletion of Emphasis Area in Psychological Sciences Department**
Dr. Tucker indicated that the Psychological Sciences Department had requested the emphasis area in Counseling Psychology be deleted from the MA in Psychology. It was noted that the emphasis area had not been a part of the MA in Psychological Sciences for several years. A motion and second were made to approve the deletion of the Counseling Psychology emphasis area from the MA in Psychology. The motion was approved.

Summer GFS Business

Discussion was held on how the Senate should handle business that needs action that arises during the summer. Last summer it was not able to review the curriculum proposals that came in during the summer and met the July deadline. Suggestions are to give Graduate School and/or officers in pocket review, put together an ad hoc group of Senators to handle summer business, or have Graduate School handle necessary business.

Appeal Process

Dr. Benoit indicated there was an upcoming student appeal and she needed five volunteers to hear the appeal. She indicated that she hoped it would be able to take place prior to the end of the semester. The appeal process would take between 90 minutes to 3 hours. The volunteers are: Stephanie Craft, Margaret Grogan, Lee Wilkins, Gail Fitzgerald, Tom Dougherty, and Mark Fine as the alternate.

New Issues for Next Year

Dr. Wilkins indicated some issues for next year’s Senate discussion will include:
1) International MOU’s (Memorandums of Understanding) -- more are being prepared.
2) Bologna Agreement and policy. In Europe European universities are accepting transfer credit for 3 year degrees. American universities don’t normally accept the 3 year degrees. Those U. S. colleges and universities that are accepting the 3 year degrees are getting students to attend their institutions. Senate will need to decide how to accept students with a 3-year degree since not all are equivalent to 4-year degrees.
3) More online degrees and certificates – more are being submitted.

A suggestion was made to have someone come and talk to the GFS about the three-year degrees.

Date for May Meeting

Since the elections were not completed it was determined that a May GFS was necessary. The best date to elect officers and select committee assignments would be late afternoon on Friday, May 9 (University Stop Day).

Master of Public Health Certificate

The Master of Public Health requested that their certificate be changed from a Dean’s certificate to a graduate certificate. A motion and second were made to approve the request for the Master of Public Health certificate be change to a graduate certificate. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Submitted by,

Ruth Erwin
Administrative Associate I

Pam Benoit
Vice Provost for Advanced Studies and
Dean of the Graduate School