Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Senate Meeting
February 5, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President Lee Wilkins at 3:00 pm in Tucker Forum, Gannett Hall.

Senators and administrative representatives attending: Lee Wilkins, Ian Aberbach, Stephanie Craft, Tom Dougherty, Gail Fitzgerald, Anthony Lupo, Eileen Porter, Jan Segert, Paul Speckman, Steve Van Doren, Kate Hertweck (Graduate Student Association), Jim Spain (Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies), and Pam Benoit, Sheryl Tucker, Jana Moore and Ruth Erwin (Graduate School).

Senators absent: Mark Fine, Margaret Grogan, Naz Islam, James McGlew, and Ellie Ragland.

A motion and second were made to approve the minutes of the November 27, 2007 meeting. Motion was approved.

**Graduate School Report**

**Request for Marshall at May 2008 Graduate School Commencement**

A request was made for a volunteer to serve as the Faculty Marshall and lead the general faculty for the May 2008 Graduate School Commencement ceremony. Dr. Speckman volunteered.

**Proposed Graduate Curriculum Dates**

Dr. Tucker provided a handout that indicated proposed timelines for new course and curriculum changes. Dr. Tucker indicated that she had been talking with the Registrar Brenda Selman, Jim Spain and others related to the deadlines currently listed on the Curriculum Change and Curriculum Proposal forms. The deadline that is listed is the deadline the Registrar would like to have the approved forms. There has been an assumption on campus that this is the date the Graduate School needs the forms in order to send to the GFS Academic Affairs Committee. Dr. Tucker has proposed March 1 and October 1 as deadlines for forms to be at the Graduate School with the materials being sent to Academic Affairs by March 15 and October 15. This would give Academic Affairs approximately a month to review and bring a report of curriculum proposals approved to the full Senate at the last meeting of the each semester. The Senate wondered if the deadlines to the Graduate School could be moved to March 15 and October 15 giving departments more time at the first of the semester to get the necessary documentation together. Dr. Tucker did indicate that during the two weeks that the Graduate School had the materials she did a preliminary review and if in her initial review she saw things missing the Graduate School would go back to the departments requesting clarification prior to Academic Affairs review.

**Griffiths Leadership Society for Women Mentoring & Networking Program**

Dr. Benoit gave an overview on the Griffiths Leadership Society. It is a program that consists of undergraduates, graduates, and alumni and has been in existence on the MU campus three years. MU women alumni provide the mentoring and networking for the campus women and participate in two annual conferences. At the current time the Griffiths Society is taking applications for student membership. Dr. Benoit indicated that she would send out an electronic copy of the application for the Senators to forward to nominees.
Graduate Student Association

Ms. Hertweck indicated that GSA put off their plans for assisting with recruitment events this year and will be working instead with interviewdocs this spring. Interviewdocs involves faculty spending 1-1 ½ hours with students reviewing resumes and participating in mock interviews.

Committee Reports

Awards -- Dr. Porter indicated that the Committee completed their work for last semester. This semester the Committee will review nominations for Graduate Faculty Mentor, Outstanding Dissertation, and Anderson GRA and GTA awards.

Academic Affairs – Dr. Dougherty indicated that the Committee had been reviewing Curriculum Proposals and a request for additional emphasis areas in Human Development and Family Studies.

Old Business

Report on National Research Council

Dr. Benoit was asked about the report from the National Research Council. She indicated that the report would not be released until late spring or early summer. She indicated that she would bring information on how MU ranked in the last ratings to the next meeting.

Dr. Porter asked about the procedure for revising the Doctoral Faculty process. It was indicated that this was approved at the September meeting.

New Business

Human Development and Family Studies Emphasis Areas

Dr. Dougherty indicated that Human Development and Family Studies wanted to add two new emphasis areas – Gerontology and Youth Development. Both will be part of the Great Plains IDEA initiative. Dr. Dougherty indicated that the Academic Affairs Committee did not find any problems with the request. A motion and second were made to approve the request by Human Development and Family Studies to add two emphasis areas – Gerontology and Youth Development. The motion was approved. Dr. Tucker indicated that she would forward the request to the Provost on Wednesday.

University of Missouri Consumer Information Compliance Plan

An overview was provided on what has precipitated the plan. It is related to Senate Bill 389 and all universities and colleges in the state must adhere to it. One part is what information universities/colleges must tell students about their courses. A committee is working on this and hopes to have the public website set up by August. It will tell the student who is teaching each course offered for the semester, what degrees the instructor has, and provide additional information about the faculty member. Faculty members will need to check their information and provide any additional information. Graduate students who teach courses will also be included on the website. Another part will be information on each section of courses offered and the teaching effectiveness of the instructor. This will not be on the public website but will require a pawprint to gain access. This must be set up by August 2009. The handout provided with the agenda indicated questions under discussion related to teaching effectiveness. Discussion included how to deliver the survey to students – paper format vs. online format,
when should be information be gathered during the semester. The information will not be used for Promotion and Tenure evaluations. Data will also be collected for graduate students who teach. Data will not be posted on classes with an enrollment under 10. Dr. Spain addressed questions about the teaching effectiveness compliance issues and sought feedback from the Senate.

Other Business

Dr. Benoit indicated that she recently attended a dinner with the Chancellor and nine graduate students. Students shared why they chose MU, their research interests and accomplishments.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Erwin Pam Benoit
Administrative Associate I Vice Provost for Advanced Studies
and Dean of the Graduate School