Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Senate Meeting  
February 27, 2007  

The meeting was called to order by President Thomas Dougherty at 3:30 p.m. in 407F Cornell Hall.

Senators and administrative representatives attending:  Thomas Dougherty, Mark Fine, Margaret Grogan, Stephen Lombardo, Peter Markie, James McGlew, Jay Scribner, Paul Speckman, Debbie Lelekis (Graduate Student Association), Pam Benoit, Ron Drobney, George Justice, and Ruth Erwin (Graduate School), and Larry Ganong (Human Development and Family Studies).

Senators and administrative representatives absent:  Stephanie Craft, Tony Lupo, Eileen Porter, Alan Strathman, Steve Van Doren, Nancy West, and Lee Wilkins.

A motion and second were made to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2006 Graduate Faculty Senate meeting.

Human Development and Family Studies Ph.D. Proposal

A motion and second were made to approve the proposal from Human Development and Family Studies to create a new Ph.D. program administered within HDFS department. The Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies is currently an emphasis area under the Ph.D. offered through Human Environmental Sciences. Dr. Ganong provided background and justification for the department’s request to separate the Ph.D. program from the College’s. He indicated that a Ph.D. emphasis area in HDFS had been offered since 1970. At that time the HES departments were too small to offer a stand alone Ph.D. so the College offered an interdisciplinary Ph.D. with each department having their own independent coursework that applied towards the Ph.D. degree in their specific emphasis area. He indicated that HDFS has 12 faculty members who are on the doctoral faculty and has graduated on average 4 Ph.D.’s a year since 2000. They currently have 23 Ph.D. students and 23 master’s students. He also indicated that Nutrition Sciences, which is a smaller department under HES, has its own Ph.D. program.  Dr. Ganong said the department had visited with the other HES departments and the College and everyone was agreeable to the department establishing its own Ph.D. program. He also indicated that no new resources would be requested from the campus and no new courses would need to be added. The department’s philosophy was that they would continue doing what they had under the Ph.D. in HES but with a new degree name. A question was raised if there was a letter of support from the Dean for the proposal. Dr. Benoit indicated that she had talked with Dean Jorgensen and he supported the proposal. She would request a letter from him to be included in the packet going forth to the campus for review. The motion was approved.

Graduate School Report

Dr. Benoit announced that the Graduate School would be participating in Graduate Education Week again this year. This year it will be celebrated by college/universities across the state on April 16-21. The Governor will sign a proclamation recognizing April 16-21 as Graduate Education Week. One of the scheduled events for the week will be the Graduate School Awards Reception. Also Jim Lang from Assumption College will be speaking on April 20. Dr. Lang also writes a column for the Chronicle of Higher Education and has published articles on professional development. Two other events scheduled during the week will be an Apply to Graduate School Workshop and the Adventures in Education for elementary school children. Adventures in Education will be held in Jesse Hall rotunda. Not only does the Adventures in Education highlight exhibits for children but it also provides information to those parents who are thinking about returning to school to further their education.

A question was raised to Dr. Benoit regarding the feedback the Graduate School received on the changes made to the December Commencement Ceremony. She indicated that all the feedback received after the ceremony was very positive – the ceremony was shortened by one hour. After the ceremony there were some negative comments. She indicated that the Graduate School is working to improve the May Commencement and incorporate more suggestions.

Graduate Student Association

Ms. Lekekis stated that the Graduate Student Association would be helping with events during Graduate Education Week. She indicated that the College of Veterinary Medicine also had an event that day and they
would be working to coordinate how children and parents can participate in both events. She also announced that the Graduate Student Award Ceremony would be April 11. The GSA awards are peer selected and departmental representative must attend the March meeting to present the departmental nominee. The awardees will receive $75, certificate and plaque from GSA. Ms. Lekekis indicated that graduate students will have a new student health insurance plan in the fall. There will now be one common plan for domestic students. She indicated that the options under the new plan are better even though the costs and deductibles will rise. She indicated that students currently under Plan 1 will be able to continue that option in the fall. She also stated that the plan for international students will not change this year.

**Fellowship and Awards Committee**

Dr. Justice indicated that the Committee has worked on the Anderson awards, Mentor awards and Graduate School fellowships. He indicated that departments should know by Wednesday afternoon or Thursday morning who was selected for Graduate School fellowships.

**Presentation on Preparing Future Faculty**

Dr. Justice gave an overview of the Preparing Future Faculty program on campus. He said that it is a national program which works with graduate students to help understand that there is a difference between being a faculty member and being a teacher and researcher. On our campus there are between 12-25 students per year from the various departments. The students range from beginning graduate students to ones who have passed their comprehensive exams. Once a month the students meet with a guest speaker who addressed various aspects leading toward the professoriate. Students also get to shadow mentors at partner institutions each semester usually for a day. Also there are professional development seminars for all graduate students and Post Doc each month. ET@MO is also holding seminars for students. Applications for the PFF Program are due in April.

**Other Business**

Dr. Drobney explained a problem that had surfaced with an upcoming Appeal Committee meeting. He indicated that it had been a problem getting 6 Senators together and that first available date for the upcoming Appeal Committee meeting was April. The current GFS bylaws called for the Appeal Committee to consist of the President of the GFS and 5 other members. Discussion followed. A motion and second were made to reduce the number of members on the Appeals Committee to 5. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Submitted by,

Ruth Erwin
Administrative Associate I

Ron Drobney
Associate Dean