The meeting was called to order by President Mike Urban at 3:30 p.m. in S204 Memorial Union.

Senators and administrative representatives attending: Mike Urban, Ian Aberbach, Jane Bostick, Patricia Friedrichsen, Gail Fitzgerald, Jere Gilles, Lynda Kraxberger, Glenn Leshner, Ellie Ragland, Jan Segert, Carol Snively, Patrick Wheeler, Angela AuBuchon (Graduate Student Association), George Justice, and Ruth Erwin (Graduate School).

Senators and administrative representatives absent: Charles Nilon, Alan Strathman, and Jana Moore.

A motion and second were made to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2010 meeting. The minutes were approved. A motion and second were made to approve the November 18, 2009 minutes of the electronic ballot issues. The minutes were approved.

**Graduate School Report**

Dr. Justice indicated the fellowship offer letters will be out next week to departments. Dr. Justice announced that the Provost with like a mini retreat with the Graduate Faculty Senate this semester. The Provost would like the Provost Staff and GFS to meet to discuss ideas and energize on the future of graduate education. Dr. Justice indicated that the Provost is excited about meeting with the GFS. Dr. Justice suggested mid/late April as a possible date. [The Provost has suggested May 5, 6 or 7 as possible dates.]

**Graduate Student Association**

Ms. AuBuchon indicated that Areum Kim (Vice President for GSA) is planning Interviewing Docs on March 11. Emails had been sent to DGS regarding the event and would like to send information to the GFS if they are able to assist with the event. Ms. AuBuchon announced that Dr. Justice and the MSA President had been working on an event where undergraduates recognize TA’s. They are planning a broad TA recognition in the fall.

**Ad hoc Committee on Associate Graduate Faculty Report**

With the approval of the GFS Dr. Urban tabled the event until next month.

**Ad hoc Committee on Plus/Minus Grading**

Drs. Friedrichsen and Gilles presented a suggested policy change regarding plus/minus grading. The policy would allow graduate student grades in all course counting toward
an advanced degree to be reported as A+/-, B+/-, and C+/-.. The policy indicated that faculty were not required to use the plus/minus grading scale. The policy noted that the Graduate School considered grades of C+, C, and C- as passing grades but that grades in the C range may not be acceptable for specific programmatic requirements and may result in students being not being able to maintain a 3.0 cumulative average. They requested that the GFS President ask the Directors of Graduate Studies to discuss the proposed policy change with their faculty and give feedback to the GFS President by April 9, 2010. At the GFS meeting in April the GFS would vote on the proposal. If the new grading policy was passed it would go into effect in the fall of 2011. This time frame would allow adequate time for the change in policy to be communicated to faculty and graduate students. A motion and second were made to ask Dr. Urban to correspond with the DGS about the possibility of adding plus/minus grading to graduate student grades. The motion was approved.

**Graduate School Dean Search**

Dr. Urban indicated that he appreciated those Senators who had been able to meet with the candidates. He recognized that there are scheduling issues with the times for some Senators. He indicated that the next candidate, Diana Carlin, would meet with the GFS on Thursday, February 25 at 9 am in 123 Jesse Hall. The last candidate will be Cerry Klein and his schedule had not been released but would be on campus March 1 and 2.

**New Business**

**Exercise Physiology Degree Designation Change Proposal from M.A. to M.Sc.**

The Department of Nutrition and Exercise Physiology had requested to change the Masters of Arts degree in Exercise Physiology to a Master of Science degree in Exercise Physiology. The department provided rationale for the change including how the MA degree goes back to the time when the degree was under the College of Education under the Department of Health and Physical Education. Also indicated in the rationale were that virtually all universities that offer a masters degree in exercise physiology, kinesiology or exercise sciences offer the MS degree. They also noted that their graduates were complaining that the MA degree was not as attractive to potential employers as the MS degree for the types of jobs they seek. A motion and second were made to approve the Exercise Physiology Degree Designation to be changed from a Master of Arts degree to a Master of Science degree. The motion was approved.

**Department of Physical Therapy Doctoral Faculty Policy Approval**

Dr. Urban provided the GFS with the proposed Doctoral Faculty policy approval for the Department of Physical Therapy which had recently added the doctoral degree to their curriculum. The GFS noted one correction that needed to be made in the policy and procedures. Under Membership – Current membership on the Graduate Faculty Senate should be changed to Current membership on the Graduate Faculty. A motion and second were made to approve the Department of Physical Therapy doctoral faculty
policy approval with the one correction that the GFS requested. The motion was approved.

Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis (ELPA) change of Emphasis/Option Area

Dr. Urban provided the GFS with a request from the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis (ELPA) to change one of its degree emphasis areas be changed from “Higher and Continuing Education” to “Higher Education.” The reasoning provided included: simplify the emphasis area’s name and contribute to better name recognition among students they wish to recruit for the program; proposed is consistent with titles of similar emphasis areas throughout the United States; proposed name is consistent with language used to describe programs by the scholarly association the faculty and students are associated; proposed name was not a result of and would not result in curricular changes; proposed change would not require additional resources; and would propose that the changes be effective July 1, 2010. The request had the approval of the College of Education Dean. A motion and second were made to approve the Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis Higher and Continuing Education emphasis are to Higher Education emphasis area. The motion was approved.

Request to Post Minutes for GFS Meeting on the Web

Dr. Urban indicated that a request had come from one of the departments to have the GFS meeting minutes posted on the GFS web page. It was noted that the minutes had been previously posted. Ms. Erwin would provide the Graduate School Communication area with the minutes to be posted.

MU College of Education Request to Transfer the Human Resources Education EdD Degree

Dr. Urban provided the GFS with a request from the College of Education to transfer the “Human Resources Education” EdD degree from the College of Education Department of Learning, Teaching & Curriculum (LTC) to the College of Education School of Information Science and Learning Technologies (SISLT). The College provided background information on the request. Drs. Fitzgerald and Friedrichsen provided more information on the request. It was noted that the LTC program was not used and transferring the EdD degree to SISLT would allow them to continue the program. This would be cooperative programming done at a college level. A motion and second were made to approve the request from the College of Education to transfer the “Human Resources Education” EdD degree from the College of Education Department of Learning, Teaching & Curriculum (LTC) to the College of Education School of Information Science and Learning Technologies (SISLT). The motion was approve.

Other Business
Dr. Urban again thanks Drs Friedrichsen and Gilles for their work on the plus/minus grading policy. He again emphasized that Senators should also talk with the departments on the issue. Feedback from departments should be provided to Dr. Urban and comments will be posted on Blackboard.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm

Submitted by,

Ruth Erwin
Graduate School