Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Senate  
January 25, 2011

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

Senators and administrative representatives attending: Lloyd Barrow, Jane Bostick, James Endersby, Sandra Erdelez, Pat Friedrichsen, Mary Grigsby (substituting for Jere Gilles), Sanjeev Khanna, Lynda Kraxberger, Glenn Leshner, Charles Nilon, Ken Shaw, Carol Snively, Mike Urban, Peter Vallentyne, Meredith Dorneker (Graduate Student Association), Lee Wilkins, Jana Moore, and Ruth Erwin (Graduate School).

Senators and administrative representatives absent: John Wigger, and George Justice (Graduate School).

A motion and second were made to approve the minutes of the November 30, 2010. The motion was approved.

**Graduate School Report**

Dr. Wilkins attended the meeting in the absence of Dr. Justice. She indicated that Dr. Justice was in Washington, DC reviewing NSF proposals. Dr. Wilkins indicated that a request would go out soon requesting nominees for the student marshals for the May Commencement Ceremony. For the May Commencement the doctoral marshal will receive a $200 honorarium. A request was made for the faculty marshal. Dr. Urban volunteered to serve as faculty marshal. Dr. Wilkins announced that at the May Commencement there would be three honorary degree recipients.

Next Dr. Wilkins announced that nominations for Graduate School Fellowships would be due on Thursday, February 10. [Due to the snowstorm the deadline was extended to Monday, February 14 at noon.] She indicated that the Graduate School would remove the minority nominees from the review process and she, Dr. Justice and Norma Jackson would review those nominees. The three of them were going to make quick decisions on those nominations and get the results back to departments so they let their prospective minority applicants know decisions and hope to increase the number of minority fellowship acceptances. The other nominations will go through the regular fellowship review process. This year the Graduate School is going to try to over offer fellowships and hope to get more acceptances by the April 15 deadline without having to go down the alternate pool late in the semester. Dr. Wilkins indicated that she is going to craft a letter of offer that the departments can use when they correspond with their awardees that will include the total cost of the fellowship and living costs in Columbia. Dr. Wilkins indicated that the Distinguished Alumni Award is due February 1. It was announced that Graduate Education Week would be the middle of April. Dr. Wilkins indicated that she needed faculty participation for the Preparing Future Faculty class with two events: CV for job market and phone interviews.

**Graduate Student Association**

Ms. Dorneker announced that GSA and GPC are co-sponsoring the cv/interview doc workshop. Details for the event are being worked on at this time. GSA is planning to implement a Pilot Peer Mentor Program next fall. They received 17 applications for 10 slots. They are hoping to have 2 mentors with 6 graduate students.

**Committee Reports**
Dr. Snively indicated that the course proposals were out to the Committee and hoped decisions could be made by February 4.

Dr. Bostick indicated the deadline for Outstanding Dissertation nominations is due January 28. For the Graduate School Mentor Award the Committee could not come to a consensus and they were still deliberating. The Anderson award nominations would be the next award the Committee would be working on.

**Old Business**

There was no old business.

**New Business**

**Representative of Graduate Faculty Senate on Faculty Council**

Dr. Urban indicated he had talked with Leona Rubin, Chair of Faculty Council, regarding a representative from GFS to sit in on Faculty Council meeting. This individual would be an ex officio member and would open lines of communication between Faculty Council and Graduate Faculty Senate. The Faculty Council meetings are every other Thursday from 3:30 to 5. Dr. Urban indicated that it could be alternating individuals. The item will be revisited at the February meeting. He also wanted Faculty Council to send a representative to GFS meetings.

**Cooperative Graduate Certificate Programs**

Dr. Urban indicated that he had received a question about how certificate programs would handle multiple units at various institutions on a graduate certificate. He indicated that he had received knowledge that a collaborative graduate certificate program with several in-state universities might be coming in the further. Discussion followed.

**Graduate “Topics, Seminars and Problems” courses policy review request by Registrar**

Dr. Urban indicated that the current policy for Topics is that “Topics offered at the undergraduate and graduate level can be offered two semesters before they must be turned in a real course.” Discussion followed on what Topics, Seminars and Problems courses are and how departments are getting around the present policy. It was proposed that the Academic Affairs Committee revisit the policy as related to Topics courses since Topics are usually offered once or very infrequently by departments.

**Clarification of the Rule Allowing Research Hours in Certificate Programs**

Dr. Urban said that he had been asked for feedback related to the Neuroscience certificate rejection. Discussion followed. Senators indicated that when they were reviewing the certificate they felt the research hours sounded more like independent study as compared to classes. It was noted that research for thesis/dissertations cannot be used for certificates. Dr. Urban and Professor Kraxberger volunteered to work on a policy regarding research hours being used on graduate certificates. It was also suggested that Neuroscience add an additional course to the certificate.

**Remote Participation Policy for Comprehensive Examinations**
A question was raised on how departments handle comprehensive exams when faculty members need to be away from campus. It was felt at present each department had their own policy on how they handled committee members who were away from campus during a student’s comprehensive examination. It was felt that the campus needed to standardized a policy and indicate on the comprehensive examination form which committee members were and were not present at the time of the exam. A question was brought up on what other universities do with regard to this issue. There is no policy for defense. A motion and second were made to table the issue until more information could be gathered.

Program Review

Dr. Urban indicated that the GFS had approved a motion to submit a letter to the campus related to the program reduction that had taken place during the Fall Semester. He indicated he did not get the letter sent to the campus. Dr. Urban expressed his concerns related to the program review process. He indicated that the state requested elimination of programs and only the GFS has the right to eliminate programs. Dr. Urban expressed the following concerns: GFS needed to find ways to help smaller programs; can the floor be raised for low programs but not the ceiling; and can programs share service. He indicated that everyone needed to think carefully about how to handle program review and talk about program reviews. He thought maybe having a speaker come in and discuss program review. Discussion followed. Things GFS can follow up and do: be more productive to make graduate education better and take the campus frustration and make it work for the GFS and campus. Questions were raised if it was possible to offer more courses under the Graduate School umbrella and if how courses were delivered either face-to-face vs distance learning made a difference. An ad hoc committee of Charles Nilon, Patricia Friedrichsen, and James Endersby would work on a resolution and use NRC criteria to assist their efforts. Dr. Wilkins will send additional information to them. The discussion with regard to program review will be addressed again in a future meeting.

Special Business

Appointment of ad hoc appeals committee

Dr. Urban indicated that he had contacted five Senators who agreed to serve on an ad hoc appeals committee. The committee would be meeting soon.

Graduate Certificate Program in Geriatric Care Management

Due to the lateness of the hour this was tabled until the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Submitted by

Ruth Erwin
Graduate School