The meeting was called to order by Vice President Pat Friedrichsen at 3:30 pm in S204 Memorial Union.

Senators and administrative representatives attending: Lloyd Barrow, Jane Bostick, Sanda Erdelez, Pat Friedrichsen, Jere Gilles, Lynda Kraxberger, Charles Nilon, Carol Snively, Peter Vallentyne, John Wigger, Meredith Dorneker (Graduate Student Association), Lee Wilkins, Jana Moore, and Ruth Erwin (Graduate School).

Senators and administrative representatives absent: Mike Urban, Sanjeev Khanna, Glenn Leshner, Ken Shaw, and George Justice (Graduate School).

A motion and second were made to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2010. The motion was approved.

**Graduate School Report**

Dr. Wilkins attended the meeting in the absence of Dr. Justice. She indicated that the Graduate School Supplemental Fellowship nominations had been reviewed by the Committee and were in house with the departments knowing the results by the first of finals week.

**Graduate Student Association**

Ms. Dorneker announced that the GSA had distributed $4500 in travel awards for the period September – December 2010.

**Committee Reports**

Dr. Snively indicated that the Academic Affairs Committee had not met

Dr. Bostick the deadline had passed on the Graduate School Mentor Awards and the Committee had 17 applications for review.

**Old Business**

**Integrated B.S./M.S. program in Soil, Environment and Atmospheric Sciences**

Dr. Peter Motavalli gave background on the need for an Integrated B.S./M.S. program in Soil, Environment and Atmospheric Sciences. SEAS students need a master degree and the department is hoping with an integrated program they will be able to attract top students. They are also finding the SEAS students need more training for their careers. Dr. Motavalli indicated that the SEAS faculty put together the proposal and that there are no differences in requirements for the undergraduate and graduate students. He indicated that the Integrated Program is not for every SEAS student. The Integrated Program will have a component of the strong undergraduate research program that MU has. He also indicated that the reason SEAS would like 9 credit hours for the dual program was that it would not be a groundbreaking concept since other universities have that requirement and that MU has allowed 9 hours for their dual enrollment programs in the past. SEAS does not plan to change any requirements for the Integrated Program and they are encouraging undergraduate research for the students but are not requiring it. Dr. Motavalli indicated that Atmospheric Sciences students need a masters degree for them to obtain jobs. The main concern for the department will be funding.
Atmospheric Science student do not have the same opportunity for funding through assistantship as Environmental Science and Soil Science have. The degree will be a research degree and undergraduate students in the program would have a committee to work with them on coursework and research. Dr. Motavalli indicated that student would need to have maturity to be in the program and he could not promise the students in the Integrated Program would complete all the requirements in five years. Students would start to meet in the Spring of their junior year with their committee and begin working on research the summer after they complete their junior year. Applications for the Integrated Program would be accepted at the beginning of the Spring semester of their junior year. Questions raised by the Senate include: how many courses would be taken in Atmospheric Sciences by that time; program needs to specify what courses need to be completed by their junior year; it was critical to look at length of program noted that the Program did not have the approval of the College and that the College needed to review both the Program request and the request for the 9 hour dual enrollment exception. A motion and second were made that the Integrated B.S./M.S. Program in Soil, Environment, and Atmospheric Sciences be reviewed and approved by the College of Agriculture, Foods and Natural Resources prior to the GFS approval. The motion was approved. The GFS decided it wanted more detail on what the 9 hours for dual enrollment would consist of. A motion and second were made to table the Integrated B.S./M.S. Program in Soil, Environment, and Atmospheric Sciences until approval from the College of Agriculture, Foods and Natural Resources and more information on the 9 hours. The motion to table the item was approved.

**DGS elections**

It was announced that Lloyd Barrow will serve the third year of Alan Strathman term as Director of Graduate Studies representative and James Endersby was elected for the new three year term as DGS representative.

**Stand alone Graduate Certificate in Neuroscience update**

Ms. Moore indicated that she had talked with faculty who were serving on the GFS when the proposal related to non-thesis hours in certificates was approved. She also contacted Rhonda Turner at System. Old Senators indicated that (to the best of their recollection) certificates should be knowledge based not research based because students only needed 12 hours to complete a certificate. I.e. certificates cannot use Problems, Readings, Research, etc. Further discussion from the current GFS resulted in concerns expressed about the “free research labor” because certificate students are not eligible for tuition subsidies. Additionally, due to the practice of some programs to prolong research with incomplete grades there was concern about the timeliness of certificate completion rates if instructors were allowed to give “I” grades for certificate research. A motion was made and seconded to not approve the Neuroscience Stand-Alone Graduate Certificate. The motion was approved. A motion and second were made to not approve using Research hours as part of the policy—not part of minimum (12 hours of credit). The motion was approved.

**Special Business**

**Approval of graduation list for December graduation**

Ms. Moore presented the December 2010 tentative Graduate School Commencement list. The tentative list includes 480 students receiving masters degrees, 18 Educational Specialist degrees, 178 doctoral degrees, 21 students receiving a certificates and 17 students receiving a degree seeking certificate. 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 Certificate in Lifespan Development – Psychological Sciences

The Senate reviews that information they had received on the Graduate Certificate and noted that only 12 hours would be shared with the graduate degree. A motion and second were made to approve the Graduate Certificate in Lifespan Development proposed by the Psychological Sciences Department. The motion was approved.

Graduate Certificate in Agroforestry

The Senate indicated that the materials they received related to the Graduate Certificate in Agroforestry was more information that they normally received but it did not include information on the certificate only a business plan. A motion and second were made to table the Graduate Certificate in Agroforestry until the department could come and talk with the GFS about the courses they proposed, etc. The motion was approved.

New Business

Discussion on Program Reduction

The GFS noted that the program reduction list included programs less than two years old that probably should not have been included. Concerns were raised if this is being done for appearance sake, cost savings or about quality of programs. If it included quality of a program then this is not a report that can be hurriedly be put together. Ms. Dorneker indicated that GSA had concerns that included the shortness of the time frame for a response, a lack of clear information presented, how quality was defined, small departments tend to be lower financed, and departments cannot provide funding for the students if they are small departments. GFS was concerned that if programs closed it would affect the student job situation. Programs create new knowledge and quality of the program does not equal the quantity of students/graduates. It was noted that if programs were to close the students currently in the pipeline would be allowed to complete their degree. GFS agreed to put together a statement related to their feeling on the program reduction. They wanted to know what the Council of Graduate Schools stance was on program reduction and that any statement needed to include the unique role that MU plays in the state of Missouri. Dr. Friedrichsen asked for volunteers to draft a statement. Peter Vallentyne volunteered to coordinate the statement with assistance from Lee Wilkins. Ms. Dorneker would send the GFS GSA response related to their issues on program reduction. The GFS draft document should ask that the University think about what needs to be protected, look at Dr. Urban’s email related to program reduction to get other statements/ideas and ask for more time for a decision to be made.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Submitted by

Ruth Erwin
Graduate School