The meeting was called to order by President Tracy Kitchel at 3:30 pm in 2205 A&B Student Center.

Senators and administrative representatives attending:  Sounak Chakraborty, Sam Cohen, Signe Cohen, Jeni Hart, Tracy Kitchel, Craig Kluever, Charles Nilon, Jeff Pasley, Earnest Perry, Carol Snively, Ton Stam, T. Chris Riley-Tillman substitute for Janine Stichter, Marty Townsend, Matthew Cook (Graduate Student Association), Leona Rubin, Terrence Grus, Chris Platto, and Ruth Erwin (Graduate School), Dan Edidin, Joseph Johnston, and Cory Elfrink (visitors).

Senators and administrative representatives absent:  Doug Bowles, and Lisa Zanetti.

A motion and second were made to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2013. The motion to approve the minutes was approved.

Dr. Kitchel presented the agenda for the meeting and indicated that a request from the Mathematics Department for exemption of 15 year rule would be added at agenda item 7c and that Dr. Edidin would discuss the department’s request next due of a prior commitment.

Dr. Edidin indicated that he had been in discussion with the Graduate School with regard to requesting a waiver of the GFS ‘15 year track’ to potentially allow the math department to admit a promising student from Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI) in India. Dr. Edidin indicated that he was not committed to accepting the student at this time but want to know if it was possible for the department to accept him into their graduate program. He did not want the student to pay the $75 application fee unless there was an option to review the student even though the student had a three year Bachelors from CMI. Dr. Edidin indicated that the student was coming from a top institute in India. He also said that the department did not initiate the request but that one of their alums who is teaching at CMI brought up the idea to the department. Discussion on the topic will continue later in the meeting.

Graduate Student Association

Mr. Cook indicated that this would be his last report since the GSA was holding election that evening for new officers. Mr. Cook indicated that for personal reasons he had decided not to run for President again. He indicated that GSA had no new business since the elections were being held. He also indicated that GSA was working to update their website. The group gave Mr. Cook a round of applause for his contributions to the GFS for the past year.

Graduate School Report

Dr. Rubin indicated that the search for the Director of Mizzou Online was going on and that 32 applicants had applied for the position. The Committee was going to do Skype interviews on Wednesday and Thursday. She also said that the search for the Director of the Master of Public Health Program had resulted in four internal candidates. The Search Committee would be meeting to begin interviews. She said the Graduate Student Leadership Program application
process ended at 5 pm today. So far there were 12 applicants for five spots. Dr. Rubin stated that the Council of Graduate Schools is conducting a survey on financial literacy. They will be using Survey Monkey. She wanted the Senators to encourage their students to fill out the survey. Dr. Rubin announced that there will be a new fellowship named after Mark Twain for senior MU students who are going to Graduate School and graduate students who are early in their program. The Fellowship will be funded by the Chancellor for 5 years and will include one year of study abroad. On the issue of student work hours she said that the Graduate School and Institutional Research are working together to identify students who are over the 28 hours and contact the students to tell them know the consequences of continuing to be over working 28 hours. Dr. Rubin said that three separate units had met with her recently to discuss a degree or certificate on Big Data. She indicated that she hoped that an umbrella could be created to make the units cooperative instead of competing against each other.

GFS President’s Report

Dr. Kitchel said that he did not have anything to report.

Unfinished Business

Consideration of the Graduate Certificate in Positive Psychology (awaiting course approvals)

Mr. Elfrink indicated that they want to get the certificate approved as soon as possible and understood that the courses had been approved by GFS. It was noted that the courses did not had GFS approval since that decision would not be made until later in the agenda. The courses had only been reviewed by the Academic Affairs Committee. A motion and second were made to approve the Graduate Certificate in Positive Psychology pending the approval of the courses. The motion was approved.

Reports of Committee

Academic Affairs Committee

Dr. Nilon indicated that the Committee had reviewed the four courses for the graduate certificate (ESCP 8700, ESCP 8710, ESCP 8720 and ESCP 8730) and Natural Resources 9490. He indicated that Natural Resources also submitted five other courses (NATR 8050, NATR 8090, NATR 9001, NATR 9087, and NATR 9090) that did not require action since they were Research, Seminar and Topics courses. Dr. Nilon indicated that he had not included them on his report and he would amend the report to include those courses. A motion and second were made to approved the Academic Affairs report. The motion was approved. Discussion followed on whether syllabi should be included with Research courses 8090 and 9090. A motion was made to exempt 8090 and 9090 courses needing a syllabus for course approval by the GFS. Discussion followed. The motion was amended to include 8050, along with 8090, and 9090. Discussion followed to amend the motion to include a statement with the course proposals on how to assess students on the work done in these courses instead of a syllabus. All motion were withdrawn and a new motion and second were made to approve 8050, 8090 and 9090 course proposals with a syllabus. The motion approved.

Awards Committee
Dr. Bowles was unable to attend the meeting and therefore there was not a report.

TOEFL Scores (Ad Hoc)

Dr. Townsend indicated a Committee headed by John Wilkerson, Director of International Admissions, was already working on reviewing TOEFL scores and that was why she had not called together the ad hoc committee. Rather than two committees operating simultaneously, both seeking the same data, she has been invited to join Wilkerson’s committee, which is expected to be convened soon after he returns from an international recruiting trip.

Other New Business

Appointment of Graduate School Faculty Marshal for December 2013 Ceremony

Dr. Kitchel asked for a volunteer for Marshal for the Graduate School’s December Ceremony. There were no volunteers. Dr. Kitchel indicated that he would contact Ashley Siebenaler to see how to proceed.

CIM Implementation Plan

Dr. Kitchel said that he, Dr. Nilon and Ruth Erwin had met with the Registrar’s office regarding the GFS approval process in the new Curriculum Inventory Management system which will go live in mid January. He indicated that he and Dr. Nilon spoke on behave of the GFS to determine the order for course approval for GFS. He indicated that after the course proposal/change leaves the department/unit it will go the appropriate College/School for their review before coming to the GFS Academic Affairs Committee for review. There will be a voting mechanism where the Committee can vote on the courses. Committee members can also make comments that can be seen by other members of the Committee. Once the course has 3 yes votes there will be a final vote by the Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee before it moves to the President of the GFS for review and then to the Graduate Dean and finally the Registrar. The Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee can send the course proposal/change back in the process if the Committee feels more information is needed. It will be Dr. Nilon’s decision on how the courses will be divided for review by the Academic Affairs Committee.

Request for Exemption of 15 year Rule

Dr. Rubin indicated that students can be admitted with 90 hours of course credit but cannot be considered a graduate student until they have completed 120 hours. Student with less than 120 hours cannot be considered for the financial assistance that graduate student receive either. Ms. Platto gave an overview on a survey the Graduate School took with other universities with regard to their accepting applicants with three year degrees from India. The survey showed that eight SEC schools do not accept three year degrees from India along with three non-SEC schools for a total of 11, 1 SEC school accepted three year degrees and 4 SEC schools accepted with conditions. Ms. Platto stated that MU is in a pilot program with regard to the Bologna degree with European countries. Ms. Platto indicated that she only asked the universities surveyed about accepting three year degrees from India and did not include other
countries. Ms. Platto indicated that it is hard to compare degrees from foreign countries and that a BA or BS may not always get a student into certain degrees and those students would need more education for admission. A question was raised if the GFS decided to exempt the 15 year rule would it affect our accreditation and the answer was it could. Students need a bachelor’s degree and a specific number of hours to enter Graduate School. Other questions included whether the issue of enrollment into Graduate School without the correct number of years of schooling had come up before and Ms. Platto indicated occasionally. She indicated that when the applicants have asked and were told the standards they are okay and did not request exemptions. Another question was if faculty members have asked the question before and she said no. A motion and second were made for departments to petition the Graduate Dean and he/she will make a decision on a case-by-case basis. The GFS would need to approve criteria for the petition and two to three GFS representatives would review the materials with the Dean. The motion was approved.

Plan/Actions for Improving Bylaws

Dr. Kitchel indicated that the GFS needs the right process in effect in order to change the Bylaws. The GFS would need to approve the process in order to continue making changes to the bylaws. It was decided to change the section in the bylaws with regard to how bylaws changes can be made and present the amendment and have approve then the GFS can review and make changes to the bylaws. After the GFS approval the changes need to go through graduate faculty. Drs. Pasley and Perry will work on a draft amendment prior to the next meeting. Dr. Kitchel asked that the Senators review the bylaws prior to the January meeting.

Dr. Kitchel indicated that he has established two subcommittees to discuss questions raised regarding GFS. One committee reviewing Graduate Faculty type and representation is composed of Jeni Hart, Martha Townsend, Sounak Chakraborty, Ton Stam, Janine Stichter, Earnest Perry, Doug Bowles, and Signe Cohen. The other committee, voice of graduate faculty and GFS committee issues, has Matthew Cook, Charles Nilon, Sam Cohen, Jeff Pasley, Craig Kluever, and Carol Snively. Dr. Kitchel will work with both committees.

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Submitted by,

Ruth Erwin
Graduate School