Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Senate  
September 28, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Urban at 3:30 pm in N206 Memorial Union.

Senators and administrative representatives attending:  Mike Urban, Lloyd Barrow, Jane Bostick, Sandra Erdelez, Pat Friedrichsen, Jere Gilles, Sanjeev Khanna, Lynda Kraxberger, Glenn Leshner, Ken Shaw, Carol Snively, Peter Vallentyne, John Wigger, Meredith Domeker (Graduate Student Association), George Justice, Jana Moore, and Ruth Erwin (Graduate School), Ken Shaw, Carol Snively, Peter Vallentyne, John Wigger, Meredith Domeker (Graduate Student Association), George Justice, Jana Moore, and Ruth Erwin (Graduate School), David O’Brien, Mary Grigsby, Hannah Alexander, Anna Waldron, Andrew McClellan, and David Beversdorf (Graduate Certificate presenter).

Senators and administrative representatives absent: Charles Nilon,

Dr. Urban asked the attendees to introduce themselves. He then gave an overview of the purpose of the Graduate Faculty Senate. GFS at MU sets policy and works closely with the Graduate School to ensure that the policy is enforced. Senators are encouraged to bring items of interest related to graduate education to the GFS. The GFS reviews new courses, degree programs, certificates, and minors. The GFS looks at policy to maintain graduate education integrity. He indicated that last May the GFS met with the Provost Staff at a Retreat and the groups highlighted things that could change within graduate education across the nation and it would be critically important that the GFS stay on top of issues related to graduate education.

A motion and second were made to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2010 meeting with the corrections that needed to be made.

Graduate School Report

Dr. Justice endorsed what Dr. Urban said about the purpose of the GFS. He indicated that he planned to use the resources of the GFS for problem areas that he finds out about. He indicated also that the Retreat provided a lively discussion on a number of campus issues. He indicated that the Graduate School will be celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Dr. Justice informed the group that the NRC database assessment had been released after a long delay. Chairs and Directors of Graduate Studies, who were included in the rankings, would get information related to their individual areas and the Deans would be provided all the information. The Chronicle of Higher Education had an article regarding comparisons and he encouraged the Senators to check it out. Dr. Justice indicated that questions related to the NRC rankings should be funneled through him. He stated that most MU programs were in the middle of the rankings.

Graduate Student Association

Ms. Dorneker announced that the GSA has moved its monthly meeting to the 4th Tuesday of the month at 6 pm. At the August meeting they had approximately 30-40 representatives attending but were lacking another 50 departments. The GSA is trying to determine ways that they can assist the Student Parent Center. She also indicated that GSA was hosting with MSA and Association of University Professors a forum with candidates from the 24th District.

Committee Reports

Drs. Snively, the current Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee and Dr. Leshner, the past Chair, discussed how the course proposals were handled during the past summer. During the
summer the Committee used Survey Monkey to handle their decisions. Dr. Leshner indicated that it would need to be adjusted for future use by the Committee.

Dr. Bostick, Chair of the Awards Committee, indicated that there are six awards that the GFS reviews. The majority of the Committee’s work is done during the Spring Semester. The Committee uses Blackboard for their review. Each committee member ranks the nominations and then discuss/deliberate to arrive at the winner.

The Senators were asked to indicate their Committee preference on the sheet that was passed around.

[The Committee assignments are as follows: Awards, Jane Bostick, Chair, Lynda Kraxberger, John Wigger, Peter Vallentyne, Sanda Erdelez, Charles Nilon, and Lloyd Barrow; and Academic Affairs, Carol Snively, Chair, Jere Gilles, Ken Shaw, Patricia Friedrichsen, Sanjeev Khanna, Glenn Leshner, and the DGS representative after the elections are held.]

**Update on the Directors of Graduate Studies**

Dr. Urban indicated that there are two open slots on the GFS for DGS representatives. Dr. Barrow has expressed an interest in one of the slots and is attending the meeting. Another DGS was interested but had a conflict between teaching and meeting times. Any interested DGS needs to provide a short bio to include with the ballot that will go to all DGS for voting purposes. Dr. Justice will send out an email to DGS asking for nominations.

**Special Business**

**Graduate Certificate in Institutions and Organization**

Drs. David O’Brien and Mary Grigsby indicated that the program came out of experiences that had applied to social scientists over the years. Two departments, Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, expressed interest in doing interdisciplinary work based on their similar interests and student requests. They looked at bringing this interest together for their students in the least costly way so that the students could show when looking for a job and showing interdisciplinary experiences. There will be no new courses needed for the certificate, which is easier for the departments to propose that doing a minor. Courses for the certificate can be used towards a graduate degree. The certificate will be a benefit to their graduating students and formalize what the students have been doing currently. The Senate gave suggestions regarding the certificate as they prepare their finalized request – will it be a 15 hours or 12 hours certificate? Increase the number of courses offered each year?, student participation in workshop? Dr. O’Brien indicated that the departments made a decision to start easy and can add departments as needed/requested. Dr. Justice indicated that he had checked with both Truman School of Public Affairs and the Business School and neither had any objections to the certificate. A motion and second were made to table the decision on the Graduate Certificate in Institutions and Organizations until the October meeting. The motion was approved.

**Graduate Certificate in Science Outreach**

Drs. Hannah Alexander and Anna Waldron presented information related to the Graduate Certificate. Dr. Alexander indicated this certificate was necessary because NSF now urges future scientists who apply for funding to “provide personal, professional, and educational experiences, to indicate their potential to fulfill the broader impact criterion.” The certificate will assist the students with relations with the community, practice of communicating science and
career development which will assist in their getting jobs. The proposal is for a 12 hours certificate with existing courses. They hope to add more courses and components to the certificate as necessary. It was noted that students doing the Outreach courses were learning a lot and this would be a way to recognize the work they are doing. They hope to get more departments interested as the certificate grows and more courses available to the students. It was noted that there is not a conflict with the Minor in College Teaching and the proposed certificate proposal. A motion and second were made to approve the Graduate Certificate in Science Outreach. The motion was approved.

**Graduate Certificates in Neuroscience**

Dr. Andrew McClellan and David Beversdorf presented information related to the Graduate Certificate in Neuroscience. They indicated they have two proposals – one for a Degree Program Certificate in Neuroscience and one for a Stand-Alone Certificate in Neuroscience. The Degree Program Certificate will be for existing graduate students who are not in the Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Proposal. It would give those students recognition for doing neuroscience research. There are approximately 60-70 students who have are taking/have taken neuroscience research credit. The Stand-Alone certificate would be for Post Baccalaureate students who have completed an undergraduate degree but have not decided on a graduate major and are taking research in labs. This would hopefully get them interested in which graduate program they would like to pursue. These certificates would be valuable to the campus. Questions were raised with regard to research courses that could not count in the Certificate but research practicum could, the mention of tuition dollars needed to be removed from the proposal. A motion and second were made to table the Graduate Certificates in Neuroscience due to the lateness of the hour.

**Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis Emphasis/Options Area Name Change**

A motion and second was made to approve the request from the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis to change the Masters of Education (M.Ed.) with an emphasis in Learning and Instruction to a Masters of Education (M.Ed.) with an emphasis in Educational Leadership. A motion and second were made to approve the change. The motion was approved.

**New Business**

**Registrar Request – Incomplete Grades**

The discussion was tabled until the next meeting due to the lateness of the hour.

**Faculty Marshal for the December 2010 Graduate School Commencement**

A request was made for a faculty marshal at the December Commencement. Dr. Friedrichsen volunteered to be the faculty marshal.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Submitted by

Ruth Erwin
Graduate School