Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Senate
October 26, 2010

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

Senators and administrative representatives attending: Mike Urban, Lloyd Barrow, Jane Bostick, Jenny Bossaller for Sandra Erdelez, Pat Friedrichsen, Jere Gilles, Lynda Kraxberger, Glenn Leshner, Carol Snively, Peter Vallentyne, John Wigger, Meredith Dorneker (Graduate Student Association), Lee Wilkins, Jana Moore, Ruth Erwin (Graduate School), and Jim Scott (Graduate Certificate presenter).

Senators and administrative representatives absent: Sanjeev Khanna, Charles Nilon, Ken Shaw, and George Justice (Graduate School).

A motion and second were made to approve the minutes of the September 28, 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 were due at noon on Wednesday, November 3. She also indicated that there would be a DGS Networking Brown Bag Seminar on November 5. It would focus on helping recruit students. A notice would be sent out about the event.

**Graduate Student Association**

Ms. Dorneker announced that the GSA was going to Pilot a Mentor Program which would have graduate students that have been on campus to mentor new incoming graduate students.

**Committee Reports**

Dr. Snively indicated that she had sent out an email about the Committee to the Academic Affairs Committee.

Professor Kraxberger announced that the Award Committee has selected a winner for the MU Distinguished Master Thesis Award.

**Old Business**

**Update on the Directors of Graduate Studies**

Dr. Urban indicated that the Directors of Graduate Studies elections will be completed by the November meeting.

**Graduate Certificate in Institutions and Organization**

Dr. Urban indicated that Dr. O’Brien had modified the Graduate Certificate in Institutions and Organization. The Certificate would consist of 15 hours with two of the required courses offered every year and the other courses will be offered every other year. Motion and second were made to approve the Graduate Certificate in Institutions and Organization. The motion was approved.
Graduate Certificates in Neuroscience

Ms. Moore gave an update on what she had found related to research hours being used for a certificate. She informed the GFS that 12 hours are the minimum number of hours required for a certificate according to the Coordinating Board of Higher Education. She was asking Rhonda Turner at UM System if she could determine in research hours could be included for a certificate. Ms. Moore had also contacted previous Senators who were on the GFS at the time the establishment of certificates were approved by the GFS and no one could remember why research hours were not included on certificates.

Dr. Urban indicated that Neuroscience had proposed two certificates – one was Degree Program Certificate in Neuroscience and one was a Stand-Alone Certificate in Neuroscience. The research issue was only associated with the Stand-Alone Certificate. A motion and second were made to approve the Degree Program Certificate in Neuroscience. The motion was approved. A motion and second were made to table the Stand-Alone Certificate in Neuroscience until the issue related to the research hours could be resolved. The motion was approved.

MPH-MA (Journalism) Dual Degree Program

Dr. Urban indicated that the proposal had been tabled last semester due to the paperwork not being submitted before the semester ended. For the Dual Degree Program both degrees will share at least 12 hours and also have 18 hours in each program. For the Dual Degree Program in MPH and Journalism they will have 61 hours for the combined degrees as opposed to the 85 hours of coursework that would be required until separate degrees. It was noted that there is a large number of hours due to the accreditation issue for the MPH program. A motion and second were made to approve the MPH-MA (Journalism) Dual Degree Program. The motion was approved.

Special Business

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

Dr. Urban indicated that the rationale for the integrated program is to recruit more students into the masters program. Dr. Wilkins indicated that when the Graduate School reviewed the program they had questions related to the research needs for the students and if the program had been reviewed by the department and college since there was no supporting documentation with the proposal. It was determined that the Summer Sophomore research needs component of the proposal needed more clarification. Some wondered if the summer research fell under the LSURF Summer Program under Linda Blockus. A motion and second were made to table the Integrated B.S./M.S. program in Soil, Environment and Atmospheric Sciences until more information could be solicited. The motion was approved.

Graduate Certificate – Learning Across Borders

Dr. Scott indicated that this was a preliminary discussion regarding a Learning Across Borders graduate certificate. He indicated that his idea is based on the University of Kansas Global Awareness Program, which came about as an aftermath of 9/11 and driven by external stakeholders. Dr. Scott indicated that the certificate he is discussing should be available for all students, both domestic and international, would be a cross-cultural learning experience with credentials given value of experience to future employer who hire students who complete the certificate. The University could use the certificate as a recruiting tool. Dr. Scott indicated that
the demand is growing for study abroad at both the undergraduate and graduate level. Under the KU program student must complete two of three components --language or cultural studies, study or research Abroad, and co-curricular activities. Each student works with their adviser on their plan of study for the Program. The language/cultural studies portion would consist of credit hours. For undergraduates they would receive 6 hours for short study or semester abroad. For graduates field research could be used. It was noted the CDIG was doing a similar idea. The certificate would encourage students to be more global. At KU 3197 students with 60 majors have participated in the program since it started. Dr. Scott indicated that MacQuarie University in Australia runs an outside the major program and uses brown bags seminars and does not offer credit hours. Dr. Scott indicated that this was an idea that was in development and would be back to meet with the GFS when the certificate was in final draft and ready for approval.

New Business

Dr. Urban indicated that the downside to creating credential driven certificates is that there must be documentation that the certificates are in the students’ interest and do not attract or detract from current programs and who administers them. Certificates were previously used to give students a way to try graduate school or get additional information or expertise about a field or interest. Dr. Urban indicated that the Graduate School reviews the current graduate certificates that are on the books and if departments no longer have an interest in their approval certificate they are not renewed. He indicated that certificates that approved must also be approved by the Coordinating Board of Higher Education. He also indicated that some certificate programs on campus are “cash cows” for departments.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Submitted by

Ruth Erwin
Graduate School