Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Senate  
January 16, 2010

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

Senators and administrative representatives attending: Mike Urban, Ian Aberbach, Jane Bostick, Patricia Friedrichsen, Gail Fitzgerald, Jere Gilles, Lynda Kraxberger, Glenn Leshner, Clark Gantzer (for Charles Nilon), Jan Segert, Carol Snively, Angela AuBuchon (Graduate Student Association), Lee Wilkins (for George Justice), Jana Moore, and Ruth Erwin (Graduate School).

Senators and administrative representatives absent: Ellie Ragland, Alan Strathman, and Patrick Wheeler.

A motion and second were made to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2009 meeting. The minutes were approved. Minutes for the November 2009 electronic vote will be submitted at the next meeting.

**Graduate School Report**

Dr. Wilkins was substituting for Dr. Justice, who was out of town. Dr. Wilkins provided an update on the Vice Provost for Advance Studies and Dean of the Graduate School search. She indicated that the names of the four finalists were on the Graduate School website. They are (in order of campus interviews): Gordon Emslie, Associate Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate College, Oklahoma State University; George Justice, Interim Vice Provost for Advanced Studies and Interim Dean of the Graduate School, University of Missouri; Diana Bartelli Carlin, Professor of Communication Studies, University of Kansas; and Cerry Klein, Program Director, Manufacturing Enterprise Systems, and Program Director, Service Enterprise Engineering, National Science Foundation and Lapierre Professor, College of Engineering, University of Missouri. Dr. Wilkins indicated that the GFS would have a time set aside for them to meet with each candidate. She also indicated that Dr. Strathman was the GFS’s representative on the Search Committee and Senators could email him comments/concerns/question for the candidates.

**Faculty Marshall**

Dr. Wilkins requested a volunteer to serve as Faculty Marshall at the May 14, 2010 Graduate Commencement ceremony. The Marshall would lead the general faculty into the Arena and stay through the ceremony. Jane Bobstick volunteered.

**Graduate Student Association**

Ms. AuBuchon indicated the first GSA meeting for the semester would be Tuesday, February 2.
Old Business

MSc and DNP (Doctor of Nursing Practice) for School of Nursing

A request was made by the Sinclair School of Nursing to add areas of focus/specialization to student transcripts. Specifically they would like the transcripts to be changed from the current degree Master of Science (Nursing) and Doctor of Nursing Practice to reflect the specific emphasis areas as follows:

Master of Science in Nursing (Clinical Nurse Specialist) or Doctor of Nursing Practice (Clinical Nurse Specialist)

Master of Science in Nursing (Family Nurse Practitioner) or Doctor of Nursing Practice (Family Nurse Practitioner)

Master of Science in Nursing (Adult Mental Health Practitioner) or Doctor of Nursing Practice (Adult Mental Health Practitioner)

Master of Science in Nursing (Family Mental Health Nurse Practitioner) or Doctor of Nursing Practice (Family Mental Health Nurse Practitioner)

Master of Science in Nursing (Pediatric Nurse Practitioner) or Doctor of Nursing Practice (Pediatric Nurse Practitioner)

Master of Science in Nursing (Public Health Nurse) or Doctor of Nursing Practice (School Health Nurse)

Master of Science in Nursing (Leadership in Nursing and Health-Care systems) or Doctor of Nursing Practice (Nurse Educator)

Dr. Bostick indicated that the School of Nursing had checked with the other campuses, since the DNP degree is a cooperative degree between the Columbia, Kansas City and St. Louis campuses, to see if these changes would be an issue with them. Both St. Louis and Kansas City did not have issues. Dr. Bostick will provide background from both campuses showing there were no issues.

A motion and second were made to approve the request from the Sinclair School of Nursing to add specific emphasis areas to their Master of Science (Nursing) and Doctor of Nursing Practice (which will begin this summer) as defined above. The motion was approved.

Associate Graduate Faculty Proposal

Dr. Urban provided background on the Associate Graduate Faculty issue. He indicated that the Senate needed to have a document that could be submitted to Dr. Justice and
he, in turn, take to the administration to begin discussion on the need for Associate Graduate Faculty status. Dr. Segert and Professor Kraxberger volunteered to serve on an ad hoc committee to draft a document for the Senate’s review. Dr. Urban would provide his notes and ideas to them.

+/- Grading

Dr. Urban went over a recent survey question he posed to Department Chairs and Directors of Graduate Studies. The question was “Would you support a change in Graduate Student grading policies at the University of Missouri to include the option of providing plus/minus grades?” Of the 108 responses he received 67% were in favor of the change. Dr. Urban presented the findings in the same breakdown as the GFS composition. The largest percentage in favor of the change was from the College of Human Environmental Sciences/Social Work and the largest percentage against the change was from Nursing/Health Professions/Medicine/Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Urban indicated that the survey was only available for two days for voting purposes. Dr. Urban indicated that in order to move the issue forward to the entire Senate for review he would like to have an ad hoc Committee work on the issue. Drs. Friedrichsen and Gilles volunteered to work on the issue. Discussion on the issue included: whether D’s were included in the +/- proposal; GPA for graduate students is cumulative; there are various grading scales for +/- used at institutions across the country and which should be used at MU. The proposal should include if a change were made when it would start and what impact this would be on S/U grading.

New Business

Dr. Fitzgerald asked Dr. Wilkins if she knew the deadlines for the campus awards that the Awards Committee needed to review. Dr. Fitzgerald was thinking there was an upcoming deadline. Dr. Wilkins did not know. Dr. Wilkins asked the Senate to encourage their departments to nominate students for the Graduate School Fellowships. That deadline would be February 10. She indicated she was hoping to turn around the nominations within 16 days so that the departments can contact the nominees around the end of February.

A question was raised about the short turnaround time for Course Proposals. Dr. Wilkins indicated that a part of the issue was that the Course Proposal deadlines had been changed from January and July to December and June which was causing course reviews to be handled over the semester break. Dr. Leshner indicated that any Senator can go on Blackboard and assist in the course review.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Submitted by,

Ruth Erwin
Graduate School