Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Senate Meeting
May 9, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President Lee Wilkins at 3:00 p.m. in S206 Memorial Union.

Senators and administrative representatives attending: Lee Wilkins, Ian Aberbach, Teresa Cooney (for Mark Fine), Stephanie Craft, Tom Dougherty, Sandra Erdelez, Mark Fine, Gail Fitzgerald, Judith Goodman, Margaret Grogan, Eileen Porter, Jan Segert, Paul Speckman, Michael Urban, Steve Van Doren, Kate Herweck (Graduate Student Association), and Pam Benoit, Sheryl Tucker, and Ruth Erwin (Graduate School).

Senators absent: Anthony Lupo and Naz Islam. Newly elected Senators who were invited but could not attend: Glenn Leshner, Alan Strathman, and Ken Shaw.

Dr. Wilkins welcomed all the newly elected Senators and thanked the out-going Senators who had served with excellence during their tenure.

A motion and second were made to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2008 meeting. The motion was approved.

**Graduate School Report**

**Graduate School Commencement**

Dr. Benoit gave an update on the Graduate School Commencement scheduled for May 16. She indicated that over 1,100 students had applied for Commencement with 900 registering to attend.

**Fee Waiver Task Force**

Dr. Benoit gave an update on the Fee Waiver Task Force. She indicated that the Task Force has representatives from various areas across campus to assist with its charge. The last time the fee waiver policy was reviewed was in 1998. The group is looking at both ½ time and ¼ time support along with nondegree support. She indicated that the review process is taking longer than she had anticipated and would continuing meeting into the fall. She said the group is collecting a lot of data and information from other colleges and universities. The Senate suggested that Dr. Benoit email the Directors of Graduate Studies and Chairs on the progress of the Task Force so far.

**Graduate Certificates**

Dr. Tucker provided a draft document on the review of graduate certificates. She provided background on the need for the document. The Graduate School will review all graduate certificate programs after five years. The handout indicated the mechanism for graduate certificate programs and information that is needed in their review packet. This incorporated all the suggestions the Senate made at the April meeting. The Graduate School will keep the Senate informed on the graduate certificates as they are reviewed.

**Graduate Student Association**

Ms. Hertweck indicated that the GSA had their annual banquet in late April and both Drs. Deaton and Benoit attended. She indicated that GSA had elected new officers and the new officers were very interested in the events that transpire at the GFS meetings. She will be an officer again next year and hopes she will be able to represent GSA on the GFS.

**Introductions**
Dr. Wilkins asked that everyone introduce themselves and indicate if they were old Senators, new Senators, or replacements. Dr. Benoit thanked those who were leaving the Senate either at the end of their term or due to other commitments and welcomed the new Senators. Applause was given for those leaving for their service to the Senate.

**Committee Reports**

**Academic Affairs**

Dr. Grogan indicated that the Academic Affairs Committee had reviewed all the courses that had been submitted and they were approved. She gave an overview of the responsibilities for the Committee on Academic Affairs which includes considering questions on policy and for making recommendations to the Senate regarding general Graduate School degree requirements, standards and procedures for admission to the Graduate School, curriculum and course offering, and degree programs. It shall also be responsible for making recommendations to the Senate regarding methods of encouraging scholarly endeavor and faculty development. This includes reviewing all course proposals, preview degree proposals and graduate certificate programs.

**Awards**

Dr. Porter provided the overview of responsibilities for the Committee on Awards. She indicated the Awards Committee is responsible for advising on policies regarding awards for faculty and students. These include the Anderson Graduate Teaching and Research Assistant awards, Outstanding Masters Thesis Award, Outstanding Dissertation Award, Graduate Faculty Mentor, and Outstanding Departmental Contribution to Graduate Education Award.

The overviews were to assist Senators in determining which of the Committees they would be willing to serve on during the upcoming year.

**Old Business**

Discussion was held on how the Senate would conduct business during the summer. Drs. Dougherty, Strathman, Leshner, Urban, Wilkins and Porter indicated they would be available this summer to assist with course proposals, degree proposals and other business that might arise that cannot wait until fall semester.

**New Business**

Dr. Speckman announced the results of the recent Senate elections. He indicated that Michael Urban will represent Arts and Science for the one year term. Ken Shaw will replace Tom Dougherty from the College of Business. Glenn Leshner will replace Stephanie Craft representing Journalism, Law and Truman School of Public Affairs. Alan Strathman will replace himself representing the Directors of Graduate Studies and Terri Cooney will replace Mark Fine as the Human Environmental Sciences representatives. It was also announced that Sandra Erdelez will take Margaret Grogan’s remaining one year term representing the Education and Judith Goodman will take Eileen Porter’s one year term representing Medicine, Nursing, Veterinary Medicine and Health Professions.

He proceeded to the election of officers for next year.

**President** Dr. Wilkins was nominated for President. A motion and second were made to elect her President. She was elected by acclamation.

**Vice President** Dr. Fitzgerald was nominated for Vice President. A motion and second were made to elect her Vice President. She was elected by acclamation.
Awards  Dr. Strathman was nominated for Awards Committee Chair. A motion and second were made to elect him Awards Committee Chair. He was elected by acclamation.

Academic Affairs  Dr. Leshner was nominated for Academic Affairs Committee. A motion and second were made to elect him Academic Affairs Chair. The motion was approved.

At Large Member  Dr. Shaw was nominated for the At Large Member. A motion and second were made to elect him the At Large Member. He was elected by acclamation.

This group will consist of the Executive Committee of the Graduate Faculty Senate for the upcoming year and will meet as needed. A sheet was passed around for the Senators to indicate their choice for serving on either the Awards Committee or the Academic Affairs Committee.

The following indicated willingness to work on the Academic Affairs Committee: Glenn Leshner, Chair (Journalism), Ellie Ragland (English), Ken Shaw (Accountancy), Michael Urban (Geography), Sandra Erdelez (Information Science and Learning Technologies), Terri Cooney (Human Development and Family Studies), and Judith Goodman (Communication Science and Disorders).

The following indicated willingness to work on the Awards Committee: Alan Strathman, Chair (Psychological Sciences), Ian Aberbach (Mathematics), Jan Segert (Mathematics), Steve Van Doren (Biochemistry), and Gail Fitzgerald (Information Science and Learning Technologies).

Other Business

Dr. Benoit indicated that one of the items that next year’s Senate will address in international programs. With the Bologna Agreement and European universities accepting transfer credit for 3 year degrees the Senate will need to decide how to accept students with a 3-year degree since not all are equivalent to 4-year degree. American universities don’t normally accept the 3 year degrees. She noted that those U.S. colleges and universities that are accepting the 3 year degrees are getting student to attend their institutions. It was also noted that institutions may start reviewing high school work for European students. Dr. Benoit suggested that the Senate might want to invite a guest speaker to campus to discuss the issues.

Another issue that will continue next fall will be the fee waiver issue and support for Graduate Teaching and Research Assistants. With more online degree programs being established the Senate may need to address how these program should be monitored and checked to insure that the quality of these programs are maintained. An issue that recently came up during the Academic Affairs review of new courses is how to handle duplication of courses across the campus and when is duplication a cause to disapprove a course proposal.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Submitted by,

Ruth Erwin  Pam Benoit
Administrative Associate I  Vice Provost for Advanced Studies
And Dean of the Graduate School