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, Naz Islam, Glenn Leshner, Lynda Kraxberger, Charles Nilon, Jan Segert, Ken Shaw, Carol Snively, Angela AuBuchon (Graduate Student Association), George Justice, Jana Moore, and Ruth Erwin (Graduate School). Also attending was Dan Willett presenting the Jazz Certificate.

Senators and administrative representatives absent: Jere Gilles, Ellie Ragland, and Alan Strathman.

A motion and second were made to approve the minutes of the September 29, 2009 meeting. The minutes were approved.

**Graduate School Report**

Dr. Justice discussed the MU Strategic Initiatives plan the campus is proposing. He indicated that graduate certificates would be attached to the Initiatives with facilitators helping to shape the programs with the assistance of the GFS. He would like the GFS to think intellectually about what interdisciplinary graduate education should look at. GFS should think about issues and work on this during the spring semester. Dr. Justice indicated the timeline would be out soon with the Advisory Committee already chosen and the Provost looking to choose facilitators. Graduate School and Graduate Faculty Senate should coordinate their efforts with the Initiatives.

**Graduate Student Association**

Ms. AuBuchon indicated she had nothing new to report from GSA.

**Old Business**

**Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders Graduate Certificate**

After reviewing the proposal on Blackboard, a question was raised about the TIPS for Kids program and if students take the state TIPS for Interdisciplinary Training program how that related to the number of other courses they need to take and if graduate credit is given for the course. Another concern was the number of outside advisory member associated with the certificate. Since the Thompson Center Graduate Certificate will be an interdisciplinary program will only one outside advisory member be adequate. Discussion was moved to how certificates are handled. It was noted that not all certificates function well and every certificate is required to be reviewed every five years. departments can chose to eliminate those certificates that have not perform as
they anticipated. A motion and second were made to approve the Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders Graduate Certificate. The motion was approved.

**Associate Graduate Faculty Status Category**

Dr. Urban indicated a need for a possible second graduate faculty category. Graduate faculty status allows a faculty member the right to teach graduate level courses, serve on graduate committees, and chair masters’ student committees. It is become more common that there are individuals who are not involved in MU activities except to teach courses. These individuals could have an associate graduate faculty status which would only allow teaching graduate courses. Deans, Chairs, and Directors of Graduate Studies would be able to decide the status of individual faculty and what their role would be in graduate education. Discussion followed with additional questions raised on whether associate graduate faculty status would be allowed to serve on masters and/or doctoral committees. Dr. Urban will post on Blackboard allowing Senators to post their ideas/comments/concerns.

**+/- Grading for Graduate Courses**

Dr. Segert presented some general pros and cons for +/- grading. They include for pros: with 3.0 thresholds for graduate students there would be room for differential grading between students; graduate students would have more information on how they stood in their departments; and consensus between undergraduate and graduate similar courses and grading scales. Cons include: graduate students are against because they feel they don’t need grades; +/- may not reduce grade inflations; and implementation of +/- grading for undergraduates was contradictory and misunderstood.

Ms. AuBuchon indicated that graduate students are concerned about Masters Degree students being at a competitive disadvantage with +/- if they apply to other schools for the doctorate. She also questioned where +/- lines would be drawn. Discussion followed. It was noted that the Council of Graduate Schools recently had this question on their listserv. A vast number of CGS colleges and universities have +/- grading. Graduate education policies are GFS rights and +/- grading requests come mainly from departments within Arts and Science. Dr. Segert noted that on the undergraduate +/- grading the vote was 56% to 44%. The issue would be explored further next month. He suggested possibly doing a survey of departments that would allow GFS to see how departments feel about the issue.

**New Business**

**Proposed Graduate Certificate in Jazz Studies**

Dr. Dan Willett presented a new Graduate Certificate in Jazz Studies proposed by the School of Music. He indicated that the rationale for the certificate is the most schools of
music and conservatories are heavily weighted toward western art music and Jazz is a parallel universe with its own musical language, performance practice and canon of repertoire. The Music Education degree at both the undergraduate and graduate level is primarily for teachers. The certificate would give band teachers formal study of jazz since many teaching positions include responsibilities in jazz. The cost for the certificate is minimal since all courses needed for the certificate are currently offered by the School of Music and they have all necessary faculties. Dr. Willett indicated that all the required courses would the consent required. He did not know if the certificate would assist teachers on the pay scale ladders. The GFS asked that Dr. Willett included a footnote on the certificate proposal to include the number of courses that could be used towards a graduate degree.

7000/9000 Level Courses Meeting Concurrently

Dr. Justice stated he had recently had a conversation with MU Registrar Brenda Selman related to 7000/9000 courses meeting in the same classroom at the same time. He asked the GFS their guidance on how to handle these situations. It was noted that Registration had found 3000/8000 courses had been meeting concurrently and this is not allowed. But these courses were masters/doctoral courses. The GFS wanted Dr. Justice to review each situation on a case-by-case basis but felt that since only graduate students were in these courses there was not the major problems in these situations as are associated with undergraduate/graduate students meeting together. They felt seminars were appropriated since the students were meeting to get an overview of a case/discussion point and then breaking into master’s and doctoral group work.

Other Business

Dr. Justice presented a request he had recently received from the School of Nursing asking that their masters and DNP degrees needs to include an area of focus/specialization. A suggestion was made to table the discussion until the next meeting to allow for investigation on how this would affect the DNP degree since it is a cooperative degree between the Columbia, Kansas City and St Louis campuses. A motion and second were made to table the discussion until the next meeting. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Submitted by,

Ruth Erwin
Graduate School