Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Senate  
September 2, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President Lee Wilkins at 3:10 p.m. in S016 Memorial Union.

Senators and administrative representatives attending: Lee Wilkins, Ian Aberbach, Teresa Cooney, Sanda Erdelez, Gail Fitzgerald, Judith Goodman, Andrew Hoberek, Glenn Leshner, Tony Lupo, Jan Segert, Ken Shaw, Michael Urban, Steve Van Doren, Kate Herweck (Graduate Student Association), and Sheryl Tucker, Jana Moore and Ruth Erwin (Graduate School).

Senators and administrative representatives absent: Naz Islam, Alan Strathman, and Pam Benoit.

The meeting was called to order after the welcoming reception provided by the Graduate School.

Dr. Wilkins welcomed the Senators and asked individuals to introduce themselves. Dr. Wilkins asked the Senators if starting the meetings at 3:00 pm would cause an inconvenience this year. The earlier starting time allowed the Senate to complete the majority of its business prior to 4:30 pm when individuals normally need to leave for family obligations. Most approved starting the meeting at 3:00 pm.

A motion and second were made to approve the minutes of May 9, 2008. The minutes were approved.

Graduate School Report

Dr. Tucker indicated that Dr. Benoit was sorry she could not attend the first meeting of the Senate due to a family emergency out of state.

Faculty Marshall for Commencement

Dr. Tucker and Ms. Moore asked for a volunteer to serve as the Faculty Marshall at the December Commencement. Dr. Lupo volunteered. Ms. Moore indicated that she would provide him with more information as it gets closer to Commencement.

Debriefing on Using Blackboard for Course Proposals

Dr. Tucker indicated that the curriculum deadlines are January 10 for Summer and Fall courses and July 15 for Winter/Spring courses. Dr. Tucker gave an overview on how the Curriculum Proposals were handled in July using Blackboard. She indicated that Patty Luckenotte from the Registrar’s office was able to prescreen the Proposals prior to Gretchen LaButti posting them to Blackboard. She indicated that Patty, Gretchen and Ruth Erwin had all reviewed the Proposals prior to the review and had been able to get the additional information needed for the Senate’s review before posting the courses. She indicated that it was helpful to see everyone’s comments on the proposals. Dr. Tucker thanked everyone who participated in the review.

Dr. Wilkins also thanks everyone who was able to participate in the student appeal hearing during the summer. She indicated that the appeal was moving along.

Graduate Student Association

Ms. Hertweck indicated that GSA has a very enthusiastic board this year. They want to be able to provide more professional development to students. Also they would like to be able to work with departments for a Welcome Weekend. This was a goal last year that they were not able to achieve.
Old Business

Finalizing Committee Assignments

Dr. Tucker went over the committee assignments that individuals signed up for last May. She indicated that some restructuring needed to be made. The following assignments were agreed upon at the meeting:

**Awards**
- Alan Strathman, Chair
- Ian Aberbach
- Andrew Hoberek
- Steve Van Doren
- Gail Fitzgerald
- Teresa Cooney

**Academic Affairs**
- Glenn Leshner, Chair
- Anthony Lupo
- Ken Shaw
- Michael Urban
- Sanda Erdelez
- Jan Segert
- Judith Goodman

New Business

Dr. Wilkins presented the Senate with topics that might become agenda items this year. They include:

1. **Courses and programs through Distance Education.** Items include – standards, how to advise students, whether projects and thesis are required and how they are handled, etc. Distance Education can include proposals for both certificates and degree programs. The Great Plains Initiative is one program that is being done through Distance Education.

2. **Bologna Accord and International Programs.** The Accord is an agreement within the EU countries where students can take courses in one country and transfer the credit to a university in another country. Campus will need to evaluate the three year degree with regard to entry into Graduate School. What standards will need to be set up campus related to the 3-year degrees. Look at what other universities and colleges are doing with regard to the 3-year degrees and how it affects MU. One of the colleges accepting 3-year degrees is Harvard. Also institutions may need to start to review high school work for European students. How is this handled could be a template for universities in Africa, and Central and South America. Dr. Tucker indicated that Dr. Benoit would like to invite Diana Carlin from the Council of Graduate Schools to campus to discuss this issue.

3. **Lobby for balance between undergraduate and graduate enrollment.** This will include the number of teaching assistants, size of classes, etc. which has an impact on the service, research and teaching aspect of faculty.

Dr, Wilkins indicated that she would provide urls on Chronicle articles that she recently read that she thought would be of interest to the Senate.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Submitted by,

Ruth Erwin
Graduate School

Sheryl Tucker
Graduate School