Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Senate  
REVISED March 20, 2012

The meeting was called to order by President Charles Nilon at 3:30 pm in 2205 A&B MU Student Center. The Senators introduced themselves to the guests attending the meeting.

Senators and administrative representatives attending: Lloyd Barrow, James Endersby, Sanda Erdelez, Pat Friedrichsen, Lynda Kraxberger, Charles Nilon, Carol Snively, Peter Vallentyne, Adam Marx (Graduate Student Association), George Justice, Mannie Liscum, Ashley Siebenaler, and Ruth Erwin (Graduate School), Haskell Taub, Rose-Marie Muzika and Mark Ryan (visitors).


A motion and second were made to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2012. The motion was approved.

**Graduate School Report**

Dr. Justice gave a report on the recent reorganization of the Graduate School. Under the reorganization the Truman School of Public Affairs has become an independent School with Director Barton Wechsler named as Dean. The transition is going smoothly. The moving of TSPA from the Graduate School will allow them to create broader and more collaborative programs. The separation of the Nuclear Science and Engineering Institute from the Graduate School is not going as smoothly. Approximately 10 years ago NSEI was established as an interdisciplinary center that also became a tenure home to five faculty members. The campus's vision for NSEI as a broad program with faculty participation from many units has not succeeded. Furthermore, the Graduate School is not set up to provide administrative support for faculty lines. Under reorganization, the academic degree program will remain the same and allow the students to receive the degree that was in place when they entered the program with the same curriculum and the same faculty advisors. In relation to the future of the academic program, the Graduate Faculty Senate provides the appropriate shared governance for graduate curricula, and any major changes to the Nuclear Engineering curriculum will be examined and approved by the senate. These changes include name changes—for example, whether the College of Engineering or other units on campus offer, in the future, Nuclear Engineering, Nuclear Science or other programs in the area. Dr. Justice indicated that the students have concerns related to changes in courses, curriculum, advisors, financial support, future classes, and the admission of students to nuclear science and engineering programs in the future. The Graduate School and Provost Foster are both committed to continuing to serve students as fully as possible, and changes are being made to enhance rather than restrict our education and research in nuclear science and engineering. Dr. Justice indicated that he could not stay for the entire GFS meeting because he needed to attend the remainder of the GFS meeting due to a conflict with another meeting related to concerns related to the NSEI separation from the Graduate School.

**New Business**

**School of Natural Resources Degree Consolidation**

Dr. Mark Ryan presented the plan from the School of Natural Resources to consolidate the masters and doctoral degrees within the School of Natural Resources departments into one masters and one doctoral degree under Natural Resources with emphasis areas. The plan will eliminate the M.S. and PhD. degrees in Fisheries and Wildlife; the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Soil, Environmental and Atmospheric Sciences and the M.S in Park, Recreation and Tourism and
would change the name of the M.S and Ph.D. in Forestry to Natural Resources. Under the consolidation the School would have the following emphasis under the M.S. and PhD. degrees in Natural Resources: Agroforestry (M.S. only, Interdisciplinary); Fisheries and Wildlife (M.S. and Ph.D.); Forestry (M.S. and Ph.D.); Human Dimensions of Natural Resources (M.S. and Ph.D.; Interdisciplinary); Parks, Recreation and Tourism (M.S. only); Soil, Environmental, and Atmospheric Sciences (M.S. and Ph.D.); and Water Resources (M.S. and Ph.D., Interdisciplinary).

Presentation on Forestry’s USDA NAA Award

Dr. Rose-Marie Muzika gave the Senate an overview on the National Needs Award that the Forestry Department had received. The award is for training of masters and doctoral students in Agriculture and Forestry resources. This award is due to the expertise in these fields will be missing in the future and the US Department of Agriculture has identified shortages that will need future expertise. Drs. Muzika and Francisco Aguilar submitted a proposal that will give two masters and two doctoral student expertise in forestry subdisciplines when they graduate. These students have become student leaders in forestry department and conduct brown bag meetings, etc. with others as part of their training. There is also funding for international research program. The four students have had staggered admission times into the training program with one beginning Spring 2011, two in Fall 2011, and the last one in Spring 2012.

Physics IGERT Proposal

Dr. Haskell Taub gave an overview on the IGERT @ MU-Neutron Scattering for the Sciences and Engineering of the 21st Century proposal. He indicated that national need is driving this project. He indicated that MU had tried previously for the award. It is a $3 million award partnered with 3 other institutions – Indiana University, Fisk University, and North Carolina State-- and Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The award has traineeships of $30,000 for stipend, $10,000 tuition and fees, internships at National Institute of Standards and Technology or at Oak Ridge Spallation Neutron Source; equipment at the MU Research Reactor; materials and supplies, travel to the national laboratories; and curriculum development. There are five departments involved with this proposal – Biochemistry, Physics, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and Biological Sciences. Students will hold the traineeships for two years.

New Business

School of Natural Resource Degree Consolidation

A motion and second were made to drop the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences, and Soil, Environmental and Atmospheric Sciences, and the M.S. degree in Park, Recreation and Tourism and change the name of the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Forestry to M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Natural Resources with transcripted emphasis areas: Agroforestry (M.S. only; Interdisciplinary); Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences (M.S. and PhD.); Forestry (M.S. and Ph.D.); Human Dimensions of Natural Resources (M.S. and Ph.D.; Interdisciplinary); Parks, Recreation, and Tourism (M.S. only); Soil, Environmental, and Atmospheric Sciences (M.S. and Ph.D.); and Water Resources (M.S. and Ph.D.; Interdisciplinary). The motion was approved.

Commencement Faculty Marshall

A request was made for a Faculty Marshall for the Spring 2012 Graduate School Commencement ceremony. Dr. Nilon volunteered.
Graduate Student Association

Mr. Marx indicated that GSA had a new website. He announced that the GFS would be receiving an invitation to the GSA banquet on April 18 at Bambino’s. The guest speaker for the event will be Dr. Liscum. The GSA is expecting 30 nominations for their awards that will be given that evening. The GSA travel awards will be due March 30. In the fall GSA is doing a call for representatives from the departments to see if they can get more departments interested in GSA. The GSA sponsored a Mocktails hour last weekend and it went well.

Committee Reports

Academic Affairs - Dr. Snively indicated that she had emailed her report prior to the meeting.

Elections - Dr. Friedrichsen announced that she has been contacting individuals to get nominees for upcoming elections. She would like to see two or three names for each election with the nominees providing a bio and then information sent to the departments for balloting.

Old Business

In order for individuals to review and make comments on the White Paper Dr. Justice is writing it may need to be emailed to the GFS Senators.

Graduate School report continued

Dr. Liscum announced that he held a meeting with Directors of Graduate Studies and staff on fellowships. The meeting ran for one hour and forty five minutes and went over how applications were chosen; what a good application is; and how and what fellowships should be used for. He hopes to have another discussion with the DGS on recruitment.

The meeting adjourned at 5:02 pm with Dr. Nilon indicated that items/individuals at the next meeting will include Pat Okker, Athletics Department and the elections and then everyone was welcome to attend an end of year event at the Heidelberg.

Submitted by

Ruth Erwin
Graduate School