Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Senate
May 10, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Urban at 3:30 pm in N206 Memorial Union. Dr. Urban asked the attendees to introduce themselves since the meeting included in the 2011-14 Senators. He also apologized for having to cancel the April meeting.

Senators and administrative representatives attending: Jane Bostick, James Endersby, Sanda Erdelez, James Tarr for Pat Friedrichsen, Sanjeev Khanna, Glenn Leshner, Charles Nilon, Ken Shaw, Carol Snively, Mike Urban, Peter Vallentyne, Patrick Wheeler, John Wigger, Meredith Dorneker and Erica Thieman (Graduate Student Association), George Justice, Ruth Erwin and Lee Wilkins (Graduate School).

Senators and administrative representatives absent: Lloyd Barrow, Mary Grigsby (substituting for Jere Gilles), and Lynda Kraxberger.

A motion and second were made to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2011. The motion was approved.

Graduate School Report

Dr. Justice reported that Graduate Education Week was a success. He indicated that 300-350 attended Adventures in Education. He indicated that the Awards Ceremony was a success and thanked the Award Committee for their hard work. He thanked the Senators who were able to attend the meeting with Pat Morton on RCM budgeting. Dr. Justice indicated that the Graduate School has started an initial search for an Associate Dean. The Search Committee would review the applications beginning on Monday, May 16. For the Graduate School Commencement exercises four speakers were invited: Ernest Agee, an alum from Soils, Environmental and Atmospheric Sciences, Brian O’Connell from the University of West Cape, and Barney, former editor of the Wall Street Journal, and Kathryn Calame, retired from Columbia University in New York School of Medicine.

Graduate Student Association

Ms. Dorneker introduced Erica Thieman, who will be the new GSA President. She indicated that GSA had changed its constitution and GSA is an academic organization instead of a social organization. GSA also changed the term of office for their officers. They will now serve January – January. The GSA hosted a Peer Mentoring Workshop on April 16 and it was well attended. She also indicated that an email will be sent to Department Chairs asking for detailed course postings on their courses.

Committee Reports

Dr. Snively indicated that the Academic Affairs Committee will need to work during the summer approving courses.

Dr. Bostick thanked the Awards Committee and indicated that they had more nominations than in the past.

Dr. Justice thanks both committees for their work over the past year.
Old Business

Graduate Certificate Proposals

Graduate Certificate in Agroforestry

Dr. Urban introduced the Graduate Certificate in Agroforestry for approval indicating that the proposal originally came before the Senate in November 2010 and had been tabled due to missing documentation. A motion and second were made to approve the Graduate Certificate in Agroforestry. The motion was approved.

Stand Alone Graduate Certificate in Neuroscience

Dr. Urban provided background on the Stand Alone Graduate Certificate in Neuroscience and indicated that it was originally reviewed in September 2010. At that time there was an extended discussion of the appropriate use of research credit as a component of Graduate Certificate program. Since that time the GFS has made a formal change in the role of research in certificate programs. The clarification approved this Spring stated: “While research experience may be included as a component of graduate certificate programs, research hours applied towards the completion of the thesis or dissertation may not be included. Coursework where students apply skills and practical knowledge such as practicum or laboratory experience may be included in the coursework required for graduate certificate program. At least 9 hours of the certificate program must be in non-research hour coursework.” The certificate as proposed meets these criteria as it only requires 3 hours of research which is not counted towards completion of the thesis or dissertation. A motion and second were made to approve the Stand Alone Graduate Certificate in Neuroscience. The motion was approved.

Online Educator Graduate Certificate

Dr. Erdelez provided background on the Online Educator Graduate Certificate. The certificate is primarily for high school teachers and students who want to be employed. It was suggested that suggested that the courses for the certificate might work with the Minor in Teaching. It was suggested that the School of Information Science and Learning Technologies should meet with Dr. Wilkins and/or Dr. Justice regarding this. It was noted that any graduate student can take the courses. A motion and second were made to approve the Online Educator Graduate Certificate. The motion was approved.

Program Review Discussion

Shared Services

Dr. Urban indicated that he was working on a draft resolution related to shared services but had not finished it. A motion and second were made to table the discussion until the first meeting of the GFS in the fall. The motion was approved. Dr. Urban will forward the draft resolution to the new GFS President.

New Business
Dr. Wilkins discussed the proposed change in the Minor in College Teaching language. The asked the GFS to review the current language for the Minor in College Teaching. The current language states: “The Minor in College Teaching (MICT) requires 9 credit hours beyond the major plan of study.” The Minor in College Teaching Committee is proposing the following change: “The Minor in College Teaching requires a minimum of 9 credit hours. With the permission of the student’s academic adviser, director of graduate study, and department, some or all of these hours may be included in the major plan of study.” Dr. Wilkins indicated that the Minor consists of three courses and a practicum. There are no online courses used for the Minor and the Committee does not want to include online courses in the requirements. Three courses for the Minor can count towards the 72 hours needed for the PhD at the program’s discretion. The GFS needed the appropriate language for the change and would handle an electronic vote on the proposed change over the summer.

**Special Business**

Election of New GFS Officers for 2011-12

Nominations were accepted for the President, Vice President, Member at Large, Academic Affairs Committee Chair and Awards Committee Chair. Discussion was provided on what the duties were for each position. An election was held and the following were elected:

- **President**: Charles Nilon
- **Vice President**: Pat Friedrichsen
- **Member at Large**: Lynda Kraxberger
- **Academic Affairs Committee Chair**: Carol Snively
- **Awards Committee Chair**: Peter Vallentyne

Dr. Urban would check to see that those who were absent would be willing to serve in their elected office.

Dr. Justice announced that he had recently attended the Great Plains Meeting and was elected to its cabinet as the Graduate Dean representative.

Dr. Justice thanked Dr. Urban for his service as GFS President for the past two years.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Submitted by

Ruth Erwin
Graduate School