Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Senate
October 25, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Charles Nilon at 3:30 pm in 2213B MU Student Center. The group went around the table and introduced themselves and what department/division they represented.

Senators and administrative representatives attending: Lloyd Barrow, Jane Bostick, James Endersby, Sanda Erdelez, Pat Friedrichsen, Jere Gilles, Sanjeev Khanna, Lynda Kraxberger, Charles Nilon, Carol Snively, Marty Townsend, Peter Vallentyne, Patrick Wheeler, John Wigger, Erica Thieman (Graduate Student Association), George Justice, Mannie Liscum, Ashley Siebenaler, and Ruth Erwin (Graduate School).

Senators and administrative representatives absent: Lisa Zanetti.

A motion and second were made to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2011. The motion was approved.

**Graduate Student Association Report**

Ms. Thieman indicated that at the CVdoc workshop over 80 curriculum vitae's were reviewed. She thanks the Senators for their assistance with the workshop. She announced that the PhD Comics movie would be shown tonight and that it was being sponsored by GSA. Ms. Thieman said that GSA would be having its officer elections in November.

**Graduate School Report**

Dr. Justice indicated at the end of September MU hosted the Big 12 Graduate Deans, Provosts and Research Officers meeting. The Graduate Deans talked about different solutions that were used on their campuses to similar problems that all the Deans faced. The Graduate Deans went on a tour of campus and thought it would be wonderful place to send undergraduates.

Dr. Justice said that for the December Graduate School Commencement a faculty marshal was needed to lead the general faculty into the ceremony. Commencement would be on Saturday, December 17 at 6:30 pm. Dr. Nilon volunteered to be the faculty marshal. Dr. Justice indicated that student inquiries had been made to return the hooding of the doctoral candidates back to the stage. Dr. Justice indicated that was not an option.

Dr. Justice discussed international graduate student and counseling services available. He indicated that the campus makes counseling services available to all students. He gave overview of a situation that was recently brought to his attention by a faculty member. He indicated that he followed up with the At Risk Committee, of which he is a member, about the proper procedures to be followed. Dr. Justice indicated that the police do not know how to talk to international students to determine if they are at risk to themselves or others. Dr. Justice indicated that campus needs to do a better job training staff on how to determine if international students are at risk to themselves or others. For domestic students a better job is being done. Dr. Justice said that Engineering has social gatherings where domestic students work with international students. They may hire part time counselors from countries where the international students come from.

**Great Plains Idea**
Dr. Justice presented a power point presentation on the Great Idea which MU is a part of. The Great Plains Idea is a cooperative certificate and degree program. Credentials are awarded by the “home” campus with courses taught by faculty in any of the participating institutions and distributed to all the institutions. A benefit is that Great Plains can offer specialized programs that individual campus cannot offer. Students in the program pay the same per credit hours for courses that are under the Great Plains umbrella. MU offered the following courses through Human Sciences – Family Planning, Gerontology, and Youth and Family Studies and offered through the College of Agriculture, Foods and Natural Resources are Agricultural Education, Food Defense and Safety and Swine Science. Issues the Great Plains has are related to membership (Dr. Justice serves as the graduate dean representative to the Great Plains Initiative), program creation and expansion, and sustainability and growth. Dr. Justice asked the Senate if they would like to discuss this again in the future. He indicated that when new programs under the Great Plains umbrella were proposed at MU the Senate would need to review along with any new courses MU departments propose.

Committee Reports

Awards Committee

Dr. Vallentyne indicated that the committee had reviewed the nominations for the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools Outstanding Thesis award. He indicated the committee had a short timetable and Dr. Justice indicated that the reason was due to the materials coming from MAGS and the short turnaround time the group provides.

Academic Affairs

Dr. Snively indicated that the committee is reviewing approximately 65 courses. She indicated that the committee was finding incomplete proposals, syllabi missing and signatures from departments/divisions missing. She indicated that the proposals were divided with two people reviewing each proposal. She wondered if the course proposal deadline dates could be moved and Dr. Justice indicated that the Graduate School had no control over the dates.

New Business

Learning Across Borders Graduate Certificate

Dr. Nilon indicated that agenda item 7b Learning Across Borders Graduate Certificate was not ready for Senate action and would not be discussed today.

Nominations for Student-Centered Awards

Dr. Justice asked Senators to encourage departments to nominate student for awards.

Overview of White Paper on Graduate Education

Dr. Justice provided background to Senate on why he was preparing the White Paper. It is part of the MU Strategic Vision Bullet Point 1.1 for 2020. He indicated that the Senate will have a thorough discussion of the paper at its next meeting. Dr. Justice indicated that he is toying with the format. He wants it to be a dialogue with faculty. Discussion was held on how to set up the paper so individuals could comment on the paper. One suggestion was have the “draft paper on left side of the page with comments on the right side. Dr. Justice indicated the copy
he had provided was a working draft for the GFS to review. It was noted that the White Paper on Graduate Education will be an item agenda at the November meeting.

The meeting adjoumed at 5 pm.

Submitted by

Ruth Erwin
Graduate School