Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Senate Meeting  
September 26, 2006

The meeting was called to order by President Thomas Dougherty at 3:30 p.m. in 407F Cornell Hall.

Senators and administrative representatives attending: Stephanie Craft, Thomas Dougherty, Margaret Grogan, Stephen Lombardo, Peter Markie, James McGlew, Jay Scribner, Paul Speckman, Alan Strathman, Lee Wilkins, Debbie Lelekis (Graduate Student Association), Pam Benoit, Ron Drobney, George Justice, and Ruth Erwin (Graduate School).

Senators absent: Mark Fine, Tony Lupo, Eileen Porter, Steve Van Doren, and Nancy West.

Since this was the first meeting of the new school year, introductions were made by everyone attending. Dr. Wilkins provided the Senate with an overview of the responsibilities for those Senators who are assigned to the Fellowships and Awards Committee. One of their primary responsibilities is to assist the Graduate School with the selecting and awarding of campus-wide awards that are distributed through the Graduate School. Dr. Drobney provided a handout of the front portion of the Graduate Faculty Senate Handbook. He indicated that the last portion of the Handbook needed revision since it still had references to what the Senate was divided into Sectors. He would appreciate if a subcommittee could assist with the revisions. Dr. Dougherty gave an overview on the responsibilities of the Academic Affairs Committee. Dr. Dougherty indicated that besides reviewing all course proposals the Academic Affairs Committee reviews new degree proposals and programs. He indicated the Committee works to find a balance with the proposals/programs between faculty governance and administration and if they can foresee any "red flags" that may cause problems with campus approvals. They also need to make sure that new programs/degrees do not overlap with existing programs/degrees.

A motion and second were made to approve the minutes of the April 26 and May 9, 2006 Graduate Faculty Senate meeting. The motion was approved.

**Report from the Graduate School**

Dr. Benoit welcomed the new Senators. She indicated that she had three priorities for the upcoming year. They are: establishing a task force on the graduate student experience; the National Research Council study which Dr. Drobney is overseeing for the campus; and recruiting. Some of the things the task force on graduate student experience will focus on are graduate student housing, stipends and fee waivers, evening daycare, and career services for graduate students.

Dr. Drobney indicated that all institutions that have doctoral programs will participate in the NRC study. The NRC study has only been done three times previously. There is normally a 13 year gap between each study. On our campus there are 46 PhD programs that meet the criteria for participation. The campus is preparing to work on the faculty list. When it the faculty list is submitted the participating faculty will receive questionnaires. Faculty need to be encouraged to fill out the questionnaire because that data generated will be what prospective students and faculty use to determine the quality of individual programs. Dr. Drobney stressed that accuracy is very important. Dr. Grogan asked why the College of Education did not participate. Dr. Drobney indicated that Education according to NRC is not part of the traditional core of programs that they are reviewing. He indicated there are several other PhD programs on campus that were not included in the survey.

Dr. Benoit indicated that she wants to improve recruiting and make a major push to step up the number of applications that we receive. She indicated that MU does not receive the same number of applications as our peer institutions. She indicated that the Provost has made it a priority to increase the number of graduate students who come to MU. She stated that she did
not have data on the quality of the graduate students accepted this year but did know that there was a slight increase in the number of graduate students this fall and that the biggest growth was in students pursuing masters degrees.

Dr. Drobney told the Academic Affairs Committee that with the initiation of the Great Plains Initiative, MU has joined 10 other universities in sharing courses for degree programs and certificates. When MU’s new programs are fully implemented the courses at the other universities will be considered MU courses and will need to follow the same procedures for approval as those taught solely on MU’s campus.

**Report from the Graduate Student Association**

Debbie Lelekis stated that the first meeting of the GSA was held on September 12. One of the items discussed was student insurance. She indicated that GSA has redesigned the process of applying for travel grants and will have more funding and an easier process for students to apply this year. GSA will also provide funding for departmental grants. They are working to increase participation in the GSA and trying to reach out so more departments will send representatives to meetings. They have created a Sector Committee to assist with that effort. She indicated that GSA is participating in the Graduate School Task Force and is working with GPC on the housing issue. The next GSA meeting will be October 10. A question was asked of Debbie regarding the GSA/GPC relationship. She indicated GSA focuses more on graduate students and GPC focuses more on the professional students.

**Action/Discussion Items**

**Classified Research Policy**

Dr. Benoit provided the group with background on what prompted a Classified Research Policy. She indicated that the Office of Research had asked the Graduate School if such a policy existed. The Electronic Thesis and Dissertation policy does address this issue directly but in reviewing data from other universities it was noted that those institutions had a specific policy in place related to classified research. Dr. Drobney put the draft together which is similar to what is used elsewhere. The draft policy suggested is:

**Classified Research Policy**

Graduate students may participate in classified research that is approved by their advisor(s) and that lies within the parameters set out by MU policies. Students are prohibited, however, from using in their thesis or dissertation research (data, results or methods) that could restrict publication for reasons of either proprietary interest or national security.

It was suggested that if this campus had more Centers it could be a bigger issue to address. Discussion followed on whether the title should be Classified Research Policy or changed to Restricted Access and Distribution Policy. Questions were raised on what constitutes “proprietary interest.” Dr. Lombardo will work with others on campus to incorporate the appropriate wording for the Policy and bring the issue back to the Senate. The Graduate School felt that at the present time the Electronic Thesis and Dissertation policy met any concerns that might need to be addressed before the Policy is finalized.

**Emphasis Area in Rural Sociology**

Dr. Wilkins announced that the Academic Affairs Committee did not have any concerns with the addition of an emphasis area in Community Development being added to the masters of Rural Sociology. Dr. Benoit indicated that she had a concern with the proposal because the emphasis area does not have all the required courses in place. In discussion that followed the Senators
had additional concerns and it was determined that the Academic Affairs Committee would draft a set of issues to be addressed with regard to the proposal before it would be brought to a vote of the Senate.

Other Business

Dr. Wilkins announced that she had met with a representative from MSA related to international teaching assistants. She wondered if maybe MSA would be willing to co-host a workshop on visual learning. Dr. Drobney indicated there were concerns about international Post Docs because they have not been screened the same way international graduate teaching assistants are.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Submitted by,

Ruth Erwin Ron Drobney
Administrative Associate I Associate Dean