

MINUTES
The Graduate Council
March 19, 2014
Johnson Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Andy Berglund (*ex officio*); Jeffrey Ewing, Kassy Fisher (*ex officio*), Sara Hodges, Ruth Keele (*ex officio*), Alexander Lewis, Joseph Lowndes, Kent McIntosh, Dorothee Ostmeier, Frances White

Members Absent: Bruce Blonigen (*ex officio*), Li-Shan Chou, Patricia Dewey, Cecilia Enjuto Rangel, Kimberly Espy (*ex officio*); Alexandre Dossin, Michele Henney, Debra Merskin, Bish Sen; Mark Watson (*ex officio*)

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Kellie Geldreich, Cortney McIntyre-Trent, Kyle Reynolds, Marcia Walker

The meeting was called to order at 3:34pm. The February 19, 2014 minutes were approved as distributed.

Old Business

Formal Vote of Thanks to Sandra Morgen

Professor White moved that the Graduate Council give a formal vote of thanks to Sandra Morgen for her outstanding contribution to graduate education and leadership of the Graduate School. Professor Hodges seconded the motion, and the Graduate Council unanimously approved the motion. The Graduate Council will send a formal letter of thanks to Sandra Morgen.

Open Meeting Discussion

Professor Lowndes reported that transparency is the intent of the proposed legislation regarding open meetings. Professor White suggested that the Graduate Council endorse Josh Snodgrass' comments to the University Senate and noted that Graduate Council minutes are posted on the Graduate School's website.

Professor Hodges suggested as a compromise to also post the Graduate Council agenda. People could then request to attend a Council meeting or could talk to their Council representative when an issue presented itself in which they were interested. Professor Hodges remarked that posting the agenda would publish the issues to be considered by the Graduate Council.

Dean Fisher noted that the Graduate Council minutes were already posted on the Graduate School website. The Graduate Council agendas could be similarly posted, and the Senate could be given a link to the Graduate School website.

Professor Lowndes summarized stating that the Graduate Council agendas would be posted by link; people who want to attend a Council meeting can contact the Chair; and beyond that, the Council endorses Josh Snodgrass' comments. Professor Lowndes will send an email to Graduate Council members containing the language he plans to forward to the Senate.

New Business

Two Specializations from Architecture – Guest Michael Fifield

1. Urban Architecture and Urban Design
2. Housing

Professor Michael Fifield, Professor of Architecture, provided the Graduate Council with background and the rationale for these specializations. He noted that the Department of architecture has accredited first professional degree programs in architecture at both the undergraduate level (B.ARCH.) and graduate level (M.ARCH.). In addition, the department also offers post-professional degrees in architecture (M.S. and Ph.D.). The Department of Architecture currently has 210 graduate students enrolled in the first professional degree program (M.ARCH.) and an additional 12 students in the two post-professional degree programs.

Professor Fifield stated that while undergraduates balance their degree program in architecture with university general education requirements, graduate students have the opportunity to focus on a specialization with architecture. The Department currently has focus opportunities in a variety of areas including architectural design, sustainable design and development, architectural technologies, urban architecture and urban design, history/theory, housing and computing/digital media. Currently, students are required to undertake a cluster of courses worth 15 credits in one of these areas. These clusters do not appear on students' transcripts. One of these areas is "Urban Architecture and Urban Design."

Professor Fifield noted that in areas where the Department has particularly strong capabilities, they are proposing specializations. For one credit more than present advanced clusters, students will be able to undertake advanced work that will appear as graduate specializations on their transcripts.

Professor Fifield stated that the Housing Specialization Committee will consist of at least three faculty members who teach the core courses in housing within the department. The Housing Specialization Committee reviewing and approving a proposed plan of study determines admission into the Specialization. An Urban Architecture and Urban Design Specialization Committee will consist of at least two faculty members who teach the required core courses in Portland and two faculty who teach the required core courses in Eugene.

Professor Hodges asked about the requirements for the Housing Specialization, specifically the number of credits. Professor Fifield responded that the intent is that from the 16 credits required, the student takes 4 credits in the Housing Studio and the other 12 credits can be taken from the list of courses given in the Specialization.

Professor Ostmeier asked about the relationship between practicum and studio. Professor Fifield explained that in practicum, students are placed in offices for credit—typically they work 12 hours per week, while interns are paid for their work.

Professor Hodges asked if Ph.D. students in the program would be eligible for the specializations. Professor Fifield responded that there would be no reason to exclude Ph.D. students.

After Professor Fifield left the meeting, the Graduate Council discussed the proposed specializations from Architecture. Professor McIntosh moved to approve both the Urban Architecture and Urban Design specialization and the Housing specialization with the provision that it be made clearer that these specializations are also available to Ph.D. students and in the Housing specialization that the optional course requirements be made clearer. Professor Hodges seconded the motion, and the Council passed the motion unanimously.

Fostering Faculty Investment in the Graduate Student Research Forum

Dean Fisher reported that this year's Graduate Student Research Forum was quite successful and noted that the poster session at noon was very well attended. This year the number of students participating in the Forum doubled. However, the number of attendees for the panel sessions continues to be low, and the Graduate School would like ideas on how to increase attendance. Dean Fisher asked for ideas to encourage faculty engagement beyond sending email invitations and asking faculty to moderate sessions. One idea that has been suggested is to tie recruitment to forum events.

Dean Berglund asked Council members their thoughts on comprising panel sessions to help with recruitment of students. The idea is that new students may like to see graduate students discuss topics that they are interested in.

Professor Hodges suggested making it more difficult or competitive for graduate students to get on the panels. That way, if a student is selected to be on a panel, you know they would be very good. Another idea is to have evening sessions, so there isn't competition with events that occur during the day.

Professor White suggested that panel sessions be used as a dry run for national meetings with students receiving a prize of money that could be put toward travel costs to the national session.

Dean Berglund stated that one criterion for winning might be the number of audience members a panelist brings to the session. Dean Berglund reported that the outside judges for the poster session were very positive about their experience. If judging is to be accomplished for the panel sessions as well, it would take a larger time commitment from the judges. For example, if the same judges sit in on three panels, the panel sessions may need to be shortened so that the total time commitment for a judge would be 2 ½ to 3 hours. If we did that, would it be feasible to tell panelists they only have 10-15 minutes to speak?

Dean Berglund noted that it is challenging to put the panels together and asked if students should be empowered to do this. The Graduate School would still oversee the composition of the panels, but the students would have the option of putting their own panel together. Dean Fisher noted that in the past, interdisciplinary panels that were put together by the students themselves seem to have the best attendance.

Professor Hodges suggested that to increase attendance at the panel sessions, professors be given invitations on behalf of the students. The invitation should be something on paper that is personalized and not in email format. This way, faculty would be motivated to attend on the invitation of a particular student.

In the interest of limiting the time for panel sessions to accommodate judging, Dean Fisher asked if it would be feasible to give the students a time limit such as 12 minutes of podium time, with 3 minutes for questions. Professor Ostmeier remarked that she believes it takes at least 20 minutes to explore an argument.

Professor Hodges stated that one concern with tying recruitment to the Forum is that not all departments are recruiting at the same time. Dean Berglund suggested that it could be cycled each year. Dean Fisher noted that all departments do one grant recruitment event at the same time; for example, Preview Oregon which focuses on students with diverse backgrounds. Professor White suggested advertising the Forum by stating in the advertisement, "If you're recruiting, consider tying your events to the Graduate Student Research Forum." Cortney McIntyre-Trent noted that many programs have limited funds for recruitment, but it might be possible for them to piggyback on the Forum by contributing to some part of the Forum such as catering.

Professor White suggested advertising the Forum to departments by letting them know their recruiting efforts could be tied to the Forum. Professor White further suggested making a handful of departments become the focus for one year's Forum. From these focused departments, one could be chosen to be the lead and pull in other departments.

Professor Hodges suggested having fewer panels and making them more significant or having a theme that all the panels could fit within. Jeffrey Ewing concurred with the idea of having fewer panels and being more selective.

Professor Hodges proposed making it competitive by having auditions for graduate students who wanted to be on a panel. This could help determine which panel sessions will be most interesting. Professor White stated that there could be panel sessions for those selected as well as panel sessions for the others.

Dean Fisher said that one idea being considered is to look at courses taught by faculty and then send the faculty member an email suggesting that undergraduates in their course should be encouraged to come to the Forum as the discussion at the panel session relates to the subject matter in the course.

Professor Ostmeier suggested that faculty could make it a requirement of the course that students apply to the Forum and write a proposal. She further suggested asking directors of graduate studies to contact local alumni they know who could be sponsors of the Forum.

Announcements

Associate Dean Search

The two open positions for the Associate Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost for Graduate Studies have been now posted. The positions are open to UO Employees only. The application date for priority consideration is February 26, 2014. Interviews for these positions will take place in early April.

Dixon Innovation Award

The call has gone out for the Julie and Rocky Dixon Graduate Innovation Award. Applications are due on Friday, April 25, 2014. The award requires two letters of recommendation—one from the student's advisor and one from the external mentor at the entity providing the experience. Dean Berglund asked Council members to encourage their students to apply.

Excellence Awards

Now in their third year, the Excellence awards were created to recognize the outstanding work of directors of graduate studies, graduate coordinators, and those faculty and staff who mentor graduate students. Nominations for these awards are due on Friday, April 30, 2014. Nominations may come from graduate students, faculty members, department heads, school/college deans, or department/college staff members relevant to the graduate program.

Adjourn

The Council adjourned at 5:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cecilia Enjuto Rangel
Graduate Council Secretary