MINUTES
The Graduate Council
April 20, 2011
240 HEDCO Conference Room

Members Present: Lynn Kahle, Rich Linton (ex officio), Jasmine park, Karen McPherson, Benedict McWhirter, Brian McWhorter, Sandi Morgen (ex officio), Lise Nelson, John Russel, Carol Stabile, Mia Tuan (ex officio), Mark Watson, Frances White

Members Absent: Marcin Bownik, Mary-Lyon Dolezel, Sara Hodges, Kim Sheehan, Rachel Walliner

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Debra Otley, Marcia Walker

The meeting was called to order at 3:35. The March 16, 2011 minutes were approved as distributed.

Old Business

Kimberly Espy Announcement

Dean Linton reported that Kimberly Andrews Espy, a Clinical Neuroscientist and Associate vice Chancellor for Research at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, will become Vice President for Research and Innovation and Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Oregon on July 1, 2011. Dean Linton believes this to be a great hire, as Espy has experience in all aspects of her new position.

Debrief discussion of Last Month’s Meeting with Brad Shelton, vice Provost for Budget and Finance

Dean Morgen asked if there were any follow-up items that the Council should discuss about last month’s meeting with Brad Shelton regarding the new budget model.

Professor McPherson spoke about examples of initiatives her department would like to implement, but believes they cannot because of the budget model.

Dean Morgen suggested that Grad Council members provide written documentation of ways departments and schools/colleges are responding to the budget model that are both positive and negative examples of how the incentives are fostering particular decisions.

Professor McWhirter agreed that any stumbling blocks that are encountered because of the new budget model should be documented and given to Dean Morgen to collect.

Professor McWhorter suggested that the Graduate School send out an email, asking Graduate Directors to report their experiences implementing the new budget model (including budgetary issues). Dean Morgen agreed to do so and has put this on the agenda of the spring 2011 meeting of the Directors of Graduate Studies.

Professor nelson noted that an important potential outcome of the particular incentive structure in the budget model is the possibility that more 400/500 level courses will be offered vs. 600 level courses despite the recommendation in the Academic Plan. Professor White, who is on the Committee on Courses, volunteered to compile data to compare course offerings to see if any trends emerge that can be attributed to the new budget model.
New Business

Diversity Strategic Action Plan for Office of the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies

Dean Tuan reported on the Diversity Strategic Action Plan for OVPRGS, noting the broad range of activities and programs that support diversity and interdisciplinary scholarship in graduate education. Examples from the Graduate School include:

- Sponsorship of Innovation in Graduate Education Awards in two areas: 1) Enriching Interdisciplinary Learning in Graduate Education, and 2) Recruitment and Retention of a More Diverse Student Body and Program
- Graduate Student Research Forum
- Challenges in Graduate Education Series
- Promising Scholars
- Rehearsals for Life

Dean Morgen noted that the Promising Scholar Awards for next year were likely to total between $450,000 and $500,000 for next year in tuition waivers and stipends to recruit a diverse student body.

Graduate Excellence Awards

Dean Morgen announced two new awards being sponsored by the Graduate School: the 2011 Excellence Award for Directors of Graduate Studies; and the 2011 Excellence Award for Graduate Coordinators.

These awards seek to recognize faculty and staff members in key positions who exceed expectations and positively impact the quality of the graduate program and/or student experience. We also hope to use the Excellence Awards to illuminate and share best practices that enhance the overall quality of graduate education at the University of Oregon. The awards will be announced at the May 11, 2011 Director of Graduate Studies meeting.

Dean Morgen asked for a Graduate Council member who would be willing to serve on the selection committee for these awards. Professor McWhorter volunteered to serve.

Discussion of Development Priorities for the Graduate School

Dean Morgen asked Council members what it would look like to be successful in achieving the goals related to graduate education that are articulated in the Academic Plan. This includes the following four areas: student support, programs, facilities, and faculty support.

With regard to facilities, Dean Morgen noted that the Graduate School will be moving to Susan Campbell Hall and that she is advocating for a graduate student center. The graduate student center could be used for graduate student meetings, workshops, etc.

Professor McPherson noted that with regard to facilities, the top priority she hears from graduate students, and in particular GTFs, is the need for office space as guaranteed by their contract. Professor Russial pointed out that lack of office space could also be a concern when recruiting.

Professor Kahle stated that it was important to create opportunities for donors to fund academic programs. An extensive discussion followed this.

Professor Nelson would like to see money given for student research; especially for students in the humanities and social sciences to do field work or for special writing fellowships.
Professor McWhirter suggested a program that focused on distance education. For example, a donor from Eastern Oregon might be willing to donate money if that money will benefit a rural area in which the donor is interested.

There was a general agreement among Council members that more monies are needed to fund fellowships and awards.

Dean Morgen asked Graduate Council members to talk with others in their departments to find out what they think are important development issues, and stated that the Council will return to this issue. It is a priority to properly position the Graduate School in this upcoming campaign.

**Dean’s Updates**

**Awards Announcements**

Dean Morgen announced this year’s winners of the UO Doctoral Research Fellowship, the Margaret McBride Lehrman Fellowship, and the Smith Summer Professional Development Awards. She thanked Professors McPherson, Nelson and Hodges for their service on the selection committee for these awards.

**Anticipated Move of Graduate School to Susan Campbell Hall**

Dean Morgen reported that the Graduate School will be moving to Susan Campbell Hall sometime in 2012. She noted that the administration is committed to keeping the Graduate School in the core of campus.

**Spring Meeting with Directors of Graduate Studies (5/11/2011)**

Dean Morgen asked Council members to encourage Directors to attend the Spring Meeting with Directors of Graduate Studies to be held from 3:00 – 5:00pm on May 11, 2011. The meeting’s agenda will include:

- Highlights from the “Future of Graduate Education” (Graduate School strategic planning) document
- Acknowledgement of the Excellence Awards for Directors of Graduate Studies and Graduate Coordinators
- An opportunity to weigh in on a proposal to set a single deadline for all Graduate School-administered awards
- A conversation about multiple career pathways, the topic for our third and final 2010-11 colloquia series, “Challenges in Graduate Education.”

**Policy Review Process**

Dean Morgen announced that the Graduate Council would need to be examining some Graduate School policies over the next year to ensure that our policies reflect the realities of graduate education in the 21st century.

**Adjourn**

The Council adjourned at 5:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary-Lyon Dolezal