MINUTES
The Graduate Council
April 21, 2010
Johnson Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Marian Friestad (ex officio), Dana Johnston, Lynn Kahle, Rich Linton (ex officio), Benedict McWhirter, Sandi Morgen (ex officio), Lise Nelson, John Russial, J.P. Sleeger, Carol Stabile, Mark Watson, Frances White, Yuan Xu

Members Absent: Christian Cherry, Mary-Lyon Dolezal, Karen McPherson, Jasmine Park, Kim Sheehan, Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Debra Otley, Marcia Walker

The meeting was called to order at 3:34. The minutes from March 17, 2010 were approved as distributed.

Announcements
Dean Friestad reported that applications for the Southeast Asian Studies Award, the University Club Foundation, Inc. Fellowship Award, and the Betty Foster McCue Scholarship are now being reviewed as part of the application process.

Old Business
Revised Proposal for new degree program: Master of Nonprofit Management
After a brief discussion, the Council unanimously approved the new degree program: Master of Nonprofit Management.

New Business
Dean Friestad advised the Council that there will be a new degree proposal from Journalism for review. This program is to be offered solely in Portland. The proposal may be submitted for the Council’s review at the May 19, 2010 meeting.

Dean’s Updates
Strategic Initiative from the Grad School on Diversity and Innovation in Graduate Education
Dean Morgen distributed a draft document titled Improving, Innovating and Diversifying Graduate Education and explained that the Graduate School will be submitting this proposal to the Provost’s Office. Dean Morgen explained that the purpose of this proposal is to implement the goals included in the UO’s academic plan. The Graduate school will accept proposals that go beyond or depart from “business as usual” in graduate education, focusing on one or more of the following objectives:

- Improving the quality of graduate education;
- Building stronger intellectual communities to nourish learning and professional development;
- Promoting interdisciplinary inquiry and collaborative research opportunities
- Seeding innovative graduate programs in areas where the UO has particular or potential niche advantages or strengths;
- Enhancing the diversity of the graduate student body, retention and degree completion for under-represented students, and/or institutional responsiveness to the needs of under-represented students.

Dean Linton indicated that this will be a targeted priority

After discussion, the Council voted unanimously to endorse this initiative.
Proposed Challenges in Graduate Education: Series of Programs for faculty in 2010-2011

Dean Morgen next distributed a handout and explained that the Graduate School plans to organize a quarterly forum to engage faculty and graduate students in discussion of some of the key challenges facing graduate education in the coming years. The forums would be led either by an invited outside speaker or panels of faculty from UO with presentations designed to foster dialogue and discussion. Dean Morgen asked the Council to think about topics that would draw people to attend these programs. This issue will be addressed at the next Council meeting.

Associate Dean Search

Dean Linton announced that Dean Friestad will be retiring in June. A Position Announcement for an Associate Dean of the Graduate School was distributed. Dean Morgen will be transitioning into a portion of Dean Friestad’s position, and Dean Morgen will keep her some of her current duties. The new Associate Dean will assume the remaining portion of Dean Friestad’s position. Dean Linton noted that a search committee has been put together for this UO search and stated that help in recruitment would be appreciated.

Update on Graduate Student Experience Survey

Dean Morgen reported that the graduate survey is posted and Council members should have received the email that went to faculty and students providing the semi-secure URL address for survey results. Dean Morgen said that currently she is reviewing the demographic and recommendation sections of the survey.

Dean Morgen sent out information to Graduate program directors and secretaries with a request that it be forwarded to faculty. Dean Morgen asked the Council for feedback regarding what they have heard within their Departments regarding the survey as well as what is happening within their Departments in response to survey results. Council responses were mixed and Dean Morgen said she would send a follow-up reminder to Departments to distribute the information.

Dean Morgen reported that in mid to late May, the Graduate School will be hosting meetings for graduate students to discuss survey results in a space outside their Departments.

Graduate Student Research Forum

Dean Morgen distributed cards announcing the Inaugural Graduate Student Research Forum to be held April 30, 2010. She is sending out personalized emails to Departments to encourage participation. Dean Morgen asked Council members to encourage faculty to attend as well.

Promising Scholar Awards

Dean Friestad reported that there have been 56 applications for Promising Scholar Awards from 21 departments and programs. There were 46 offers made, for a total of $738,000 in tuition remission and stipends. As of this date, 24 offers have been accepted, and that number is expected to go up.

The breakdown of offers reveal:
- 33% - Hispanic
- 25% - Asian
- 21% - Black or African American
- 10% - Multiracial
- 04% - First Generation
- 02% each – Native American, International, and Disabled

There was a significant change from last year in Hispanic applications, from 23% last year to 33% this year and in Black/African American applications from 14% last year to 21% this year.

In the fall the Graduate School hosts an award reception for recipients of these awards, inviting last years' recipients as well. Dean Friestad invited Council members to attend.
Adjourn

The Council adjourned at 4:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kim Sheehan, Secretary