MINUTES
The Graduate Council
February 17, 2010
Johnson Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Mary-Lyon Dolezal, Marian Friestad (ex officio), Dana Johnston, Rich Linton (ex officio), Karen McPherson, Benedict McWhirter, Sandi Morgen (ex officio), Lise Nelson, Jasmine Park, J.P. Sleeger, Mark Watson, Frances White, Yuan Xu

Members Absent: Christian Cherry, Lynn Kahle, John Russial, Kim Sheehan, Carol Stabile

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Marcia Walker, Debra Otley

The meeting was called to order at 3:32. The minutes from January 20, 2010 were approved as amended.

Announcements

Dean Friestad reminded the Graduate Council of the Research Ethics Panel Discussion on Friday, February 19th from noon to 1:20 p.m. in the EMU Walnut Room. Council members are invited to attend and to urge their students to participate as well.

Dean Morgen encouraged Graduate Council members to support the Inaugural Research Forum for Graduate Students to be held on Friday, April 30, 2010. There have been over 100 graduate students who have submitted proposals for papers, poster sessions, and/or panels.

Old Business

Revised Proposal for the Oregon Leadership in Sustainability Certificate

Guests Alan Dickman and Stephen Mital attended the meeting to aid in the discussion with Council members about the Proposal. Written responses to Graduate Council questions regarding this Proposal have been distributed to Council members. Council members discussed issues such as long-term plans for sustained faculty support, program funding, plans for course reviews and student feedback, and tracking of students after they graduate.

Dean Friestad reported that she just recently learned that CAS has not reviewed nor approved the Proposal, so it would be premature for the Graduate Council to vote at this time. It was agreed that if CAS approval is given in the near future, the Graduate Council will vote by email on the Proposal.

Graduate Student Experience Survey

Dean Morgen distributed a handout entitled Draft Message to Department Heads and Faculty: Promoting Positive Program Discussions About the Graduate Student Experience Survey that will be sent out to the UO Community. Dean Morgen reported that the tentative date of a wider release of the data is scheduled for April 5, 2010. Dean Morgen has been meeting with Deans and Department Heads who will distribute the results of the survey to their faculty before general dissemination to the UO community. At some point in the future, a more public report will be prepared.

The Council discussed methods for dissemination of the survey results as well as how the information provided by the survey will be used by Departments and Colleges. Professor McWhirter suggested that the Graduate Council revisit this at their next meeting and that Council members report how their Departments are utilizing the survey data.
New Business

Proposal for a new degree program: Master of Nonprofit Management

Guests Professors Renee Irvin and Laura Leete attended the Graduate Council meeting to take questions from the Council on their proposal. Professor Irvin began the discussion by noting that the building blocks are in place for a Master of Nonprofit Management as there already exists a thriving nonprofit certificate program, there is faculty strength, and there is strong demand from current students who would like a Master’s degree to be offered.

Professor Leete noted that the field of nonprofit management has been growing rapidly since 1980 and that the UO is behind the nation in offering nonprofit degrees. Portland State and Southern Oregon have certificates, but no one in the OUS system offers a Master’s degree in this field.

Professor Irvin indicated that the design is to establish the highest quality program in the United States and noted that strict quality control measures are in place.

Dean Friestad asked the Council to forward to her by email any further questions or ideas about this Proposal and she will forward them to the proposers.

Dean's Updates

Graduate Enrollment Growth

Dean Linton reported that we have seen a 20 percent increase in graduate applications over last year and asked if that has translated to an increase in offers. The response to this question was mixed, with some Council members stating that there was no increase in offers because the quality of the applications was mixed, or because the new budget model affects the ability to make offers. Other Council members reported that their Departments were receiving higher quality applications.

Dean Linton has asked the Deans to report how they are supporting graduate enrollment growth, and he will ask the Graduate Council to review this data.

Dean Linton requested that Council members email him regarding reasons for the increased number of applications not translating into increased enrollment.

Electronic Thesis & Dissertation (ETD) Project

Dean Otley updated the Graduate Council on the implementation of the electronic dissertation submission process. The Graduate School and Library staff are in the process of developing the UO site with UMI. The process, instruction, and support structures will be in place for pilot testing this spring and summer, with full implementation in fall of 2010. She asked Council members to email her with any questions. There will be a more detailed description of the process at the next Graduate Council meeting.

Dean Friestad noted that electronic submission will be mandatory for all students starting fall of 2010 and that the Library will provide support to get submissions in final format.

Adjourn

The Council adjourned at 5:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Sheehan, Secretary