MINUTES
The Graduate Council
February 16, 2011
240 HEDCO Conference Room


Members Absent: Mary-Lyon Dolezal, John Russial, Kim Sheehan, Carole Stabile, Mia Tuan (ex officio)

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Kassy Fisher, Debra Otley, Marcia Walker

The meeting was called to order at 3:35. The minutes from January 19, 2011 were approved as prepared with edits.

Announcement

Dean Morgen opened the meeting by encouraging Council members to bring any issues they thought should be discussed to her attention so that all members have a voice in shaping the Graduate Council's agenda.

New Business

Discussion of "The Future of Graduate and Professional Education"

Council members received both the document and handout with suggested questions for the Deans Working Group discussion. The Graduate Council was given three questions to consider: 1) Does this document resonate with you; 2) How do we get from aspirational statements to campus discussion and decisions; and 3) Are there suggested revisions to the document?

The discussion centered on a document prepared by the Graduate School leadership team entitled “The Future of Graduate Education at the UO” dated January 28, 2011. Dean Linton pointed out the importance of this document for framing the work of the Graduate School and the Grad Council in coming years. Dean Linton noted that this is an opportunity to create a sound basis for shared goals and priorities for action among the Graduate School, the academic deans, graduate programs, academic leadership and University Development.

Professor White stated that graduate student funding is a priority; that is, we need to be able to specify to a student that he or she will receive x amount of dollars for x number of years. Furthermore, the current budget model structure is not built to support graduate students.

Professor Nelson stated that it is hard to be competitive with research grants, because the costs of GTFs (including health insurance) and tuition support are high. She stressed the importance of working closely with Development to prioritize academic priorities, especially graduate education.

Dean Morgen explained the importance of this document for building the campus consensus necessary to develop effective planning and concrete actions to move towards accomplishing these goals.

Professor White stated that her interactions with Development have not been as constructive as she wished.

Dean Morgen asked if Development goals are being framed the way the Graduate Council would like to see them framed.

Professor Nelson stated that the Graduate Council should forward to the Deans a few priorities rather than overwhelming them. Professor Nelson believes that there is a definite need to address the
unrealistic goal of 19 percent growth in enrollment. There was further discussion of this given the fast
growth in undergraduate enrollment. There was discussion about whether this is the best way to enhance
quality, and not just quantity of graduate education.

Professor Kahlle stated that the whole thing is somewhat abstract. These are all good things, but we
need something concrete that states our needs. There is a need for creative Development people to wed
the needs of the institution with the donors.

Professor McWhorter asked if it would be possible to be specific with goals for each school.

Dean Linton replied that we want to encourage each Dean to take ownership and determine what is
compelling for their schools and what is missing and then come up with a few priorities.

Professor McWhorter noted that the language in this document reflects a different scenario than how
GTFs are used in the Music Department.

Dean Morgen noted that we need a cross-college discussion of what should happen, and players need to
partner in different ways. We need to incentivize change in the structure. If it is just at the Department
level, things won't change enough.

Professor Nelson asked if it would be helpful to come up with a vision statement for graduate education at
the University of Oregon. This vision statement would clarify what Deans or others could do. Then, we
could have a page for Development trends that should stem from this.

Professor White noted that something that has not been discussed is support of graduate students post
graduation. Schools that support their graduate students post graduation find it crucial to transition from
being a student to working in the professional field.

Dean Linton stated that Deans need to take ownership for these goals and a question they should be
asked is how they define and reward success.

There was a lengthy, substantive discussion of all these issues concluding with a strong endorsement of
the basic ideas in the document and recognition of the need to move to a draft that is more action
oriented after the rounds of discussions with other groups that are planned (Grad Advisory Board, FAC.
Meetings with individual Deans, others).

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**Old Business**

**Continuation of Discussion of Graduate Issues Related to the New Budget Model**

Dean Morgen reminded the Council that Brad Shelton, Vice Provost Budget and Planning, will attend the
next Graduate Council meeting on March 16, 2011. Dean Morgen asked Council members what
questions they thought should be posed to him at the next meeting.

Professor Kahlle suggested that the Council ask what the compensation model is for students who take
classes in another department. Dean Morgen replied that there is a model for cross enrollment where
Deans will negotiate with other Deans when a documented problem arises in the number of students
taking a class in another department. The assumption is that Dean-to-Dean negotiations will take place
in this event, and some believe this should be incentivized. Dean Morgen agreed that this issue should
be raised with Vice Provost Shelton.

Dean Morgen also thought that the Council should ask how the budget model can be used to grow
doctoral students, as it appears the model is currently a disincentive to growing doctoral education.
Another question to be posed is, "If quality is what we care about in graduate education, and the budget
model is quality neutral, how do we align these two factors?"

Professor McWhirter asked Graduate Council members to email Dean Morgen any further questions. She
will then compile a list of questions that will be sent to Vice Provost Shelton.
Dean's Updates

Dean Morgen announced that there was a good response to the RFP for the Innovation in Graduate Education program. Proposers will be meeting with the selection committees in the next few weeks, and decisions will be announced March 11, 2011.

Dean Morgen thanked those who attended the second annual Graduate Student Research Forum that was held February 11, 2011. The event was a success and brainstorming has already started for next year's forum.

Dean Tuan announced that the February 22, 2011 Challenges in Graduate Education colloquia series, "Actively Recruiting a Diverse Graduate Student Body: A Panel Discussion" will take place from noon to 2:00pm in the Knight Library Browsing Room.

Dean Fisher announced that the University of Oregon Doctoral Research Fellowship deadline has passed and 18 nominations have been received. Deadlines are approaching for the Margaret McBride Lehrman Fellowship and the Margaret Wiese Graduate Research Award. More information about these and other awards can be found on the Graduate School website.

Dean Morgen noted that the Graduate School is now accepting applications for Promising Scholar Awards and the rate of requests have increased from last year.

Adjourn

The Council adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary-Lyon Dolezal