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

Members Present: Marcin Bownik, Mary-Lyon Dolezal, Sara Hodges, Lynn Kahle, Karen McPherson, Benedict McWhirter, Sandi Morgen (ex officio), Lise Nelson, Carol Stabile, Mia Tuan (ex officio), Rachel Wallner, Mark Watson, Frances White

Members Absent: Rich Linton (ex officio), Jasmine Park, John Russial; Kim Sheehan, Brian McWhorter

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Kassy Fisher, Debra Otley

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

Old Business

There was no old business for the Graduate Council to discuss.

New Business

Budget Model/Graduate Funding – Guest Brad Shelton

Vice Provost Shelton began the discussion with a brief overview of how the new budget model works. He views the budget model as a "machine" for distributing the University's operating revenue (about $400 million). The overall budget is approximately $800 million—with the other $400 million not part of the budget model. Vice Provost Shelton said that this model is designed to "push" the money to where the decisions are made.

Vice Provost Shelton then provided a visual overview of how the budget model works. The plan is to let this model operate for two to three years before there are significant changes.

Council members then engaged in discussion with the Vice Provost about the budget model and brought up the following points:

- Concern about the potential for departments to block non majors from taking classes, because no money follows.
- General education/service classes— the model appears to be promoting more large classes instead of smaller, more effective and rewarding classes.
- 400/500 level courses proliferated by budget model despite Academic Plan goals for more 600 level courses. A suggestion was made to track the results of enrollment to see if the new budget model will result in a decrease in 600 level graduate courses offered.
- Interdisciplinarity – more decisions that require Deans to negotiate with each other and concerns about barriers.
- Vice Provost Shelton asked Council members provide him data and information about actual vs. unintended consequences of the model during the next two to three years, so the model can be assessed.
- Incentive vs. disincentive—how to ensure that innovation is promoted rather than discouraged.
Request to Change the Name of Russian and East European Studies Center

The Graduate Council unanimously approved the request of the Russian and East European Studies Center (REESC) to change its name to the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies Program. No structural, curricular, or budget changes in the unit will accompany or result from this change, and the change would go into effect in September 2011.

Dean’s Updates

Dean Morgen expressed her thanks to the Committees who reviewed the Innovation in Graduate Education proposals. Dean Morgen will send by email the outcomes of the Committees’ decisions.

Dean Fisher reported that the University of Oregon Doctoral Research Fellowship Committee has met and selected recipients will be announced soon.

Dean Morgen announced that the Graduate School is now accepting Promising Scholar applications. There is still time to submit applications, but this should be done as soon as possible.

Adjourn

The Council adjourned at 4:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary-Lyon Dolezal