MINUTES
The Graduate Council
May 26, 2010
Johnson Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Mary-Lyon Dolezal, Marian Friestad (ex officio), Dana Johnston, Benedict McWhirter, Sandi Morgen (ex officio), Lise Nelson, Jasmine Park, Kim Sheehan, J.P. Sleeger, Mark Watson, and Frances White

Members Absent: Christian Cherry, Lynn Kahle, Rich Linton (ex officio), Karen McPherson, John Russial, Carol Stabile, Yuan Xu

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Debra Otley, Marcia Walker

The meeting was called to order at 3:36. The minutes from April 21, 2010 were approved as distributed.

Announcements

As this is Dean Friestad’s last Graduate Council meeting before her retirement, Dean Morgen, on behalf of the Graduate Council, thanked Dean Friestad for her distinguished service on the Council.

Dean Morgen reported that this year’s Graduate Student Research Forum held on April 30, 2010 was a great success. She acknowledged the outstanding efforts of the Graduate School Advisory Board and the graduate students involved in putting on this year’s Forum. Next year’s Graduate Student Research Forum will take place on February 11, 2011.

New Business

Proposal for a new Master’s Degree Program in Multiplatform Journalism

Guests in Attendance to discuss the Proposal were: Alan Stavitsky, Leslie Steeves, and Timothy Gleason.

Dean Stavitsky began the discussion by explaining that there are currently profound industrial and technological changes underway in contemporary journalism creating the need for a new Master’s Degree Program in Multiplatform Journalism. This new Program will be based at the George S. Turnbull Portland Center, located at the UO in Portland at the White Stage Block, and will prepare journalists to step into whatever the future of journalism holds.

Dean Gleason noted that the Master’s Degree Program in Multiplatform Journalism will be interdisciplinary, drawing upon business and digital arts.

Further discussion by the Graduate Council regarding the Proposal included such topics as curriculum, assessment measures, staffing, the modular approach, funding and resources available in Portland.

Professor Steeves stated that the goal is to have the new Master’s Degree Program in Multiplatform Journalism start in fall of 2011.

Dean Friestad asked Council members to send her by email any additional comments or questions about the proposal by this Friday, May 28, 2010. The Council agreed that they may vote by email on any further submissions of the Proposal.

Role of the Graduate School in Recruiting Graduate Students
Due to time constraints, Dean Morgen spoke briefly on this topic, noting that while there are institutional goals around increasing the numbers of graduate students and increasing diversity, recruitment of graduate students is localized in departments. Dean Morgen asked Council members to think about what can be done more centrally that would help at the local level to recruit these students. Dean Morgen suggested that this should be an agenda topic for next year’s Graduate Council, and she asked that Council members send to her any ideas they may have to help position this conversation in the Fall.

Nominations for Graduate Council Officers

Dean Friestad stated that nominations can now be made for those who will serve as next year’s Graduate Council Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. Council members can volunteer to serve on these positions or can nominate others to serve or continue to serve in positions they currently hold. The Council will then officially vote on nominations received.

Old Business

Challenges Facing Graduate Education

Dean Morgen reminded the Council that that 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. Due to time constraints, this issue will be revisited in the fall.

Dean’s Updates

Dean Friestad reported that Rich Linton, Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, has announced plans to step down from his position no later than June 30, 2011.

Dean Morgen reported on the search for a new Associate Dean in the Graduate School. The Search Committee is up and running, and a review of applications is underway. The quality of applications is very high.

Dean Morgen will take the position of Vice Provost of Graduate Studies as of July 1, 2010.

Adjourn

The Council adjourned at 4:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kim Sheehan, Secretary