MINUTES
The Graduate Council
November 18, 2009
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, Jasmine Park, John Russial, J.P. Sleeger, Mark Watson, Frances White, Yuan Xu

Members Absent: Christian Cherry, Mary-Lyon Dolezal, Karen McPherson, Kim Sheehan, Carol Stabile

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Marcia Walker

The meeting was called to order at 3:35. The minutes from October 21, 2009 were approved as distributed. It was agreed that in the future Graduate Council members would receive Graduate Council minutes in draft form as soon as they are available, so that members can share Council actions and information with other groups on campus.

Announcements

There were no announcements from Graduate Council members.

Old Business

Revised Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Department of Planning, Public Policy and Management

Dean Friestad reported that on November 17, 2009 she received a Revised Proposal from the Department of Planning, Public Policy and Management and began to review the Department’s responses to Council members’ questions.

Guest: President Richard Lariviere

The Graduate Council opened the discussion with member introductions to President Lariviere. The President first spoke to the importance of graduate education and how to best explain the University’s mission to the community at large. He then opened the floor to questions and concerns from the Graduate Council. Issues discussed included how best to encourage and support interdisciplinary graduate education, how to support increased graduate enrollment, the issues surrounding implementation of differential tuition, and the continued concern about state funding.

Dean Morgen reported to President Lariviere that a Graduate Student Experience Survey was completed last year with a 51 percent response rate. The next step in the process is to meet with the Deans of each School and College to have an open-ended discussion about graduate enrollment growth and what the Survey revealed. President Lariviere expressed his support for these meetings and encouraged an open discourse about Survey results and using Survey information to improve the quality of graduate education at our institution.

Old Business (continued)

Revised Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Ph.D. in Architecture

Dean Friestad will distribute the Revised Proposal to Council members. Dean Friestad asked Council members to forward to her by email any additional concerns or questions regarding the Revised Proposal and she will forward these to the Department. Professor Xu requested, and Dean Friestad agreed to ask the Department for a summary of the changes made to the Proposal. After discussing the possibility of taking a vote by email, it was noted that there is currently a moratorium from OUS on new degree programs, so a slight delay in the Council’s decision on this Proposal would not cause a delay in the process itself.
Graduate Student Experience Survey

Due to time constraints, the Council decided to table discussion about the Graduate Student Experience Survey until the next Graduate Council meeting. Dean Morgen asked Council members to review the Survey data provided to them as if the data was about each of their own departments, and to consider what might be the most productive way to engage faculty and graduate students in discussions about data results. Dean Morgen is looking for guidance as to how to implement the process. Dean Morgen asked Council members to forward to her by email any concerns or questions regarding the sample data provided.

Committee Assignments

Dean Friestad reviewed assignments of Council members to Graduate Council Standing Committees. Dean Friestad will distribute the list of assignments by email to Graduate Council members.

Other

Dean Friestad announced that the Graduate Council will not hold a meeting in December of 2009. The next Graduate Council meeting is January 20, 2010.

The Council adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kim Sheehan, Secretary