MINUTES  
The Graduate Council  
November 17, 2010  
240 HEDCO Conference Room

Members Present: Marcin Bownik, Mary-Lyon Dolezal, Sara Hodges, Lynn Kahle, Rich Linton (ex officio), Karen McPherson, Benedict McWhirter, Brian McWhorter, Sandi Morgan (ex officio), Lise Nelson, Jasmine Park, John Russial, Mia Tuan (ex officio), Mark Watson, Frances White

Members Absent: Dana Johnston, Kim Sheehan, Carol Stabile, Rachel Wallner

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

The meeting was called to order at 3:35. The Graduate Council opened the meeting with member introductions. The minutes from October 20, 2010 were approved as distributed.

Graduate Council Officers

Three people agreed to be nominated as Officers:
- Benedict McWhirter as Chair
- Lise Nelson as Vice Chair
- Mary-Lyon Dolezal as Secretary

The slate of officers was approved by unanimous vote.

No Graduate Council Meeting December 2010

Dean Morgan announced that the Graduate Council will not hold a meeting in December 2010. The next Graduate Council meeting is January 19, 2011.

Old Business

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

New Business

Challenges in Graduate Education Colloquium Series – Debra Stewart Visit

Dean Morgan began the discussion by referring to the Executive Summary distributed in conjunction with the visit from Debra Stewart, President on the Council of Graduate Schools. Dean Morgan noted that several issues were discussed in the Executive Summary regarding the future of graduate education in the United States including:

- The need for access to graduate school for underrepresented students  
- High attrition rates in doctoral education  
- Long time to degree completion which may prohibit applications  
- Nonacademic career pathways for graduate students must be clarified and expanded upon  
- Interdisciplinary structure must be attended to and nurtured in order to remain viable and strong.

Dean Morgan noted that Debra Stewart concluded her presentation by stating that if universities do not pay attention to these areas of vulnerability, their goals will be compromised. Dean Morgan then opened the floor for a discussion of these topics as they pertain to each Graduate Council member's unit.
There was a lively, engaged discussion about these issues. Some of the concerns raised by Graduate Council members included:

- Funding issues for graduate students – need for more support for graduate research and professional development and for recruitment and retention resources to attract an outstanding, diverse graduate student body
- Concerns about whether the new UO budget model is adequately supportive of interdisciplinary learning and innovation in graduate education
- Ensuring that master’s education is valued and high quality
- How to think strategically about graduate enrollment growth – master’s vs. doctorate, niche programs, quality
- Better tracking of career and scholarly achievements of our graduate students after they graduate
- Closer working relationship with University Development on behalf of graduate education
- Meaningful progress diversifying our graduate student body

Dean Morgen asked Council members to talk with colleagues in their sectors of campus to determine the salience of these issues and to raise others for discussion at the January 2011 and future meetings.

**Survey on Graduate Student Recruitment Strategies**

Dean Tuan reported that the Graduate School will be conducting a short telephone survey asking Departments about their graduate student recruitment strategies. Dean Tuan distributed a handout of the proposed survey questions and asked Council members for feedback on the questions listed.

**Dean’s Updates**

**Compensation**

Dean Linton reported that there will be another survey about what graduate students (not just GTFs) believe is most important with regard to funding, compensation. However, questions are still being framed and it is premature for discussion at this point. Dean Morgen noted that groups such as the Graduate School Advisory Board are being asked how we can distribute limited resources to best support their needs. We will be discussing this at the next meeting.

**Budget Model**

Dean Morgen will send to Graduate Council members background information regarding the budget model and asked members to discuss the model with their colleagues and report feedback at our next meeting. If there are legitimate issues, the Council may want to address these issues with those managing the model.

**Adjourn**

The Council adjourned at 5:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary-Lyon Dolezal