MINUTES
The Graduate Council
October 16, 2013
Johnson Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Barbara Altmann (ex officio), Bruce Blonigen (ex officio), Li-Shan Chou, Patricia Dewey, Alexandre Dossin, Cecilia Enjuto Rangel, Kimberly Espy (ex officio), Jeffrey Ewing, Kassy Fisher (ex officio), Sara Hodges, Ruth Keele (ex officio), Joseph Lowndes, Andrew Marcus (ex officio), Kent McIntosh, Dorothee Ostmeier, Mark Watson (ex officio), Frances White

Members Absent: Michele Henney, Debra Merskin, Bish Sen

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Cortney McIntyre-Trent, Kyle Reynolds, Marcia Walker

Guest: Jeffrey Todahl

The meeting was called to order at 3:35pm. The Graduate Council meeting opened with introductions of those in attendance.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Discussion of Graduate Council Mission and Procedures

Dean Espy briefly reviewed the UO Senate’s Charge to the Graduate Council, noting that the Graduate Council is responsible for:

- Providing rules and procedures for the effective administration and application of faculty policies and regulations;
- Recommending changes in, or additions to, the policies and major regulations of the Graduate School;
- Providing for the maintenance of high standards of graduate instruction;
- Considering all proposals for changes in courses carrying graduate credit and to present its recommendations to the Committee on Courses; and
- Participating in decennial Program Review.

Nomination and Election of Graduate Council Officers

Chair of the Graduate Council: Professor Enjuto Rangel nominated Professor Lowndes for the Chair position. Professor Hodges seconded the nomination motion. The motion passed unanimously to elect Professor Lowndes as Chair of the Graduate Council.

Vice Chair of the Graduate Council: Professor Bruce Blonigen nominated Professor White for the Vice Chair position. Professor Enjuto Rangel seconded the nomination motion. The motion passed unanimously to elect Professor White as Vice Chair of the Graduate Council.

Secretary of the Graduate Council: Professor Hodges nominated Professor Enjuto Rangel for the Secretary position. Professor White seconded the nomination motion. The motion passed unanimously to elect Professor Enjuto Rangel as Secretary of the Graduate Council.
Graduate Council Committees

Dean Espy outlined Graduate Council Committee descriptions. Marcia Walker will send an email to Graduate Council members asking them to submit their first, second, and third choices for Committee assignments by Wednesday, October 23, 2013.

Graduate School Goals

Dean Espy reviewed the Graduate School's 2013-14 Goals. These goals were provided to Council members for their review in advance of this meeting. The overarching goals are:

1. Enhance and provide central coordination for professional development of graduate students at the University of Oregon.

2. Continue to foster a culture of graduate program excellence and responsiveness through the dissemination of key data.

3. Evaluate the Individualized Studies: Interdisciplinary Program.

4. Continue working toward enhancement in institutional investment in graduate education.

5. Have 10 Graduate Specializations (approved or in pipeline) by end of AY 2013-14.

6. Continue working toward electronic processing of GTF contracts, payroll, and insurance.

7. Recruitment and retention of under-represented minorities, first-generation students, and international students.

8. Gain greater/improved representation for the graduate student population within the larger student body.

Dean Espy stated that the purpose of distributing these goals is to advise the Graduate Council that the emphasis this year will be on professional development, using Graduate School resources to complement the units. Dean Espy noted that it is important to become aware of careers outside your own unit. Dean Espy asked Council members to read the Graduate School Goals and to provide their feedback.

Professor Ostmeier suggested that in the near future the Graduate Council and Graduate School focus on Internationalization/Globalization of Graduate Education. It should be a formalized process, not only what each Department has developed. She suggested a website to show that the UO is interested in this topic with such things as faculty exchanges, graduate internships, and research opportunities. Dean Espy suggested that we have Dennis Galvan, Vice Provost for International Affairs, come to a future Graduate Council meeting to discuss this topic.

Professor Dewey would like to see on this list collaboration with Enrollment Management for graduate student recruitment. Dean Espy agreed and noted that this is a topic that is coming up later in the agenda today.

Professor White referred to Goal 4 and Professor Enjuto Rangel stated that often graduate students do not come to the UO because of the small stipend they will receive. She noted that the UO has good programs and great faculty, but often lose graduate students because of the low stipend. She would like the UO to grant graduate students stipends more comparable to other universities.

Professor Blonigen asked if we have data on comparator institutions. Dean Fisher replied that if you look at stipends only, we are in the bottom. If you look at the total compensation package—which includes health insurance—the UO falls in the middle of the range. Dean Espy noted that some UO departments have decreased their number of graduate students in order to be able to increase the amount of individual student support.
Discussion of Graduate School Goal for Professional Development

Dean Espy reported that last year meetings between the Graduate School deans and all UO directors of graduate studies, department heads, and school/college deans to distribute and discuss data compiled from: Academic Analytics, analysis for each department of the Graduate Student: Experience Survey from 2012, Time-to-Degree and Degree Completion Data for doctoral students compared to AAUDE comparators, and five-year aggregate Exit Survey data. The Graduate School deans noted that often departments brought up the need for more professional development for their students. Some units have already come up with innovative ideas promoting professional development that could be passed along to other units. The Graduate School could serve as a clearinghouse for these ideas.

Dean Espy asked Graduate Council members to gather information from their programs about innovations/successes that have enhanced professional and career development for graduate students and asked how the Graduate School can best share this information with units and/or be of assistance to them.

Professor Hodges brought up the issue of graduate students who don’t go into academic roles. She would like information on how to present alternatives to graduate students without conveying the idea that "we’re giving up on [them]."

Professor Ostmeier thought it was a good idea to post information about what other units have found to be successful on the Graduate School website.

Professor Blonigen reported that his department is tracking all graduate student placements—not just academic placements. Dean Espy noted that the AAU is attempting to do this as well.

Dean Espy introduced the postdoc initiative by the Graduate School as one in which the Graduate School will first determine the number of postdoc students at the University. She explained that while one metric showed the number to be very low, there are a substantial number of postdoc students on campus who are not being tracked. For example, in the Mathematics Department, there are postdocs who are instructors. Some postdocs bring their own funding. The Graduate School is in the process of identifying different types of postdocs on campus and their titles, to let them know about services the Graduate School provides. Dean Espy asked Council members to let the Graduate School know if they have ideas to help better connect our postdocs to our institution.

Professor White reported that in the Department of Anthropology there are postdocs who are teaching. Three to four are funded each year and appointed as adjuncts. Dean Espy stated to better track postdocs in Banner, a different appointment mechanism might be needed.

CFT Proposal for Stand-Alone Major—Guest: Professor Jeffrey Todahl, Couples and Family Therapy (CFT) Program

Professor Todahl provided an overview of the proposal and addressed Council questions about CFT’s proposal for a stand-alone major.

Professor Hodges asked what the benefit is to making this change. Professor Todahl stated that the stand-alone major is a more accurate representation of the program, and it would be clearer to licensure boards that this is a master’s degree.

Professor Hodges then asked if having only three tenure-track faculty—some of whom teach in other areas—would be spreading faculty thin in this program. She expressed concern that there would be sufficient faculty who are a permanent part of the program who could give the program continuity.

Professor Todahl stated that adjuncts have been working in the program, and there is a new search for a non tenure-track faculty for teaching. Professor Hodges asked if there were two non tenure-track faculty specifically tied to this master’s, and Professor Todahl stated that was correct.
Professor Hodges suggested that CFT add an addendum to the proposal explaining that one of the main reasons for this request is clarification for licensure. Professor McIntosh seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Announcements

- **Recruitment/Talisma**

Dean Espy reported on a new partnership with Enrollment Management to start using *Talisma*, an electronic constituent relationship manager. *Talisma* is a tool that customizes a series of communications and then tracks graduate student applications. There will be a lot of work up-front, but once that is completed, communications will be very effective. Enrollment Management has just purchased this tool. Cortney McIntyre-Trent in the Graduate School will be our lead.

Dean Espy noted that *Talisma* can make communications with prospective graduate students appear to come from faculty. We will be working with faculty to tailor these communications and show the flavor of specific departments. We are just beginning this process and looking forward to the benefits of using this new tool.

- **Diversity Partnerships**

Dean Espy noted that there are currently three partnerships that are being cultivated. The first is with the University of Alaska Anchorage where 11 percent of the student body is Native American. We are also partnering with Southern University at New Orleans and Grambling State University. Dean Espy asked Graduate Council members to forward any partnerships they may already have in place, so that these partnerships could be built upon.

- **Changes in Graduate School Staff**

Andy Berglund, Associate Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, joined the Graduate School on July 24, 2013, as Interim Associate Dean of the Graduate School.

Cortney McIntyre-Trent, who joined the Graduate School in April, was promoted to Admissions and Recruitment Manager.

Kellie Geldreich will be joining the Graduate School on November 11, 2013, as Academic Affairs Manager.

- **Graduate School Student Advisory Board/ASUO Student Fees**

Kyle Reynolds described the Graduate School Student Advisory Board as an entity that serves in an advisory capacity to the Graduate School. Last year the Board looked into the fees that graduate students pay and found that the fees were distributed to:

1. Athletics/Dus Passes
2. Departments
3. EMU Renovation
4. Programs such as the women’s center, child care subsidies, cultural events, recreational activities (not the UO Student Rec Center), and academic activities.

While graduate students pay these fees, they have found it difficult to serve on the ASUO where it is decided how the fees will be spent. ASUO service requires a member to commit to 12-15 hours per week, and this time commitment is often very difficult for graduate students. A recent poll indicated that 91 percent of graduate students and law students could not commit to this amount of time for ASUO service. In addition, two seats designated for graduate and law students were eliminated from ASUO last year.
The Graduate School Advisory Board is working with the ASUO President to determine if a graduate student committee could be incorporated into ASUO. Currently, issues of Committee structure and time commitment are being evaluated.

Kyle Reynolds stated that graduate students would like to see some of the money they are contributing be used for travel grants or research activities. Dean Espy noted that ASUO spending is based on representation, and it currently appears that graduate students are not getting their fair share.

- **Graduate School Awards Reception**

The Graduate School Awards Reception will be held Monday, October 21st from 5:00 to 6:30pm in Gerlinger Lounge. Dean Fisher noted that many of the students who are being honored were selected by Graduate Council members who served on the selection committees. She encouraged Council members to attend.

**Adjourn**

The Council adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Cecilia Enjuto Rangel
Graduate Council Secretary