MINUTES
The Graduate Council
February 19, 2014
Johnson Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Bruce Blonigen (ex officio), Li-Shan Chou, Patricia Dewey, Cecilia Enjuto Rangel, Jeffrey Ewing, Kassy Fisher (ex officio), Michele Henney, Sara Hodges, Ruth Keele (ex officio), Alexander Lewis, Joseph Lowndes, Kent McIntosh, Mark Watson (ex officio), Frances White

Members Absent: Alexandre Dossin, Debra Merskin, Dorothee Ostmeier, Bish Sen

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Kellie Geldreich, Kyle Reynolds, Marcia Walker

The meeting was called to order at 3:37pm. The January 15, 2014 minutes were approved as distributed.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Proposal from Undergraduate Council to Reschedule Final Exams

Professor White explained that the proposal to reschedule final exams comes from the Registrar’s office. At this point there is universal support for this change from the Undergraduate Council, the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies, and the Council of Associate Deans for Undergraduate Studies/Academic Affairs from each of the colleges. All of these bodies have agreed that schedule #2 from the proposal is the better option. If the Graduate Council approves this proposal, the plan is to have the Undergraduate Council approve it as well, and then it will be taken to the University Senate as jointly-sponsored legislation.

Professor Hodges noted that if there are more than three exams back to back, students are accommodated by rescheduling.

Professor White stated that the issue affecting graduate students arises when GTFs are required to increase their hours to accommodate the rescheduled exams. Professor Hodges agreed that this proposal has little bearing on graduate education with the exception of how it affects GTFs. Professor White reiterated that this was true; it only affects GTF workload.

The Graduate Council voted upon a motion made by Cecelia Enjuto Rangel and seconded by Carole Stabile to approve schedule #2 of the proposal. The Graduate Council approved the motion unanimously.

Professional Development Efforts for Graduate Students

1. Julie and Rocky Dixon Innovation Awards

Kyle Reynolds explained that a call will be soon going out for a new fellowship, the Julie and Rocky Dixon Graduate Innovation Award. This fellowship is designed to support up to six doctoral students who are interested in pursuing innovation experiences that will prepare them for careers outside of academic in areas including but not limited to industry, business, and the non-profit and government sectors. The activities that comprise the experience should help enhance the career possibilities of students and be integral to their professional goals and plans for their doctoral research. Furthermore, the experience gained during the fellowship would ideally extend beyond the value to the individual student by enriching the student's academic department, lab, research center or other UO unit by fostering broader connections and engagement of the unit and without community of agencies, museums, non-profits, companies, national laboratories, etc.
Examples of eligible activities include:

- Internships or cooperative experiences with a company, agency, or organization (e.g., non-governmental organization, think-tank, etc.) or public policy initiative or a nonacademic research organization. For example, the proposal might involve spending six months as an intern organizing a high profile symposium for a governmental policy initiative, and then spending an additional three months focused on his/her dissertation while also drafting a report and/or grant applications for use by the agency in getting the initiative off the ground.
- An opportunity to conduct mentored activities in a museum (e.g., curating an exhibition) or archive setting, and then spending time developing the dissemination materials for use by the archive, for a topic matter related to his/her dissertation research.
- Applying the student’s academic skill set to develop a business, such as a consulting business other entrepreneurial venture. For example, the proposal might entail spending three months being mentored by an entrepreneur in the chosen field, another four months working to develop a business plan, and another two months launching the business, all concurrently with the student’s dissertation research.

Dean Berglund noted that the Dixon Award is intended for doctoral students who have advanced to candidacy. He stated that one purpose of the Award is to engage external mentors for graduate students’ careers.

Professor White asked if health insurance is factored into the Award. Dean Berglund responded in the affirmative stating that insurance, tuition, and fees are factored in, noting that it is like a GTF position plus the $10,000. He stated that the goal is to have UO partners also bring a financial contribution to the table.

Dean Berglund stated that the expectation is to have outstanding students who are successful, and then those examples of success can be shared with this donor and other prospective donors.

Professor Hodges asked if the experience would need to cover an entire year or if it could be a two-term project. Dean Berglund stated that he did not have an answer for that at this point, but it definitely could not be a one-term project. It should be a 9 or 12 month opportunity. He suggested that departments not approach this by saying, "we don’t have the money," but rather should view this as a way to stretch limited resources.

Professor Henney stated that it would be nice to broker a deal with CAS to share in funding this award. Dean Blonigen stated that there is a lot of budget flux right now in CAS, but that doesn’t mean that CAS is not committed to graduate education. Dean Blonigen remarked that this sounds like a good program.

Professor Stabile asked how this could be accomplished in the Humanities where no industry is involved. Professor Enjuto Rangel suggested thinking creatively with the use of grants.

Dean Blonigen commented that receiving the award would mean a whole year without teaching responsibilities for a graduate student. This in turn may allow students to finish earlier than they would otherwise which could be a huge benefit to them.

Professor White suggested looking into innovative ways to fund graduate students, such as tapping into our huge alumni base to ask alumni to assist with non-financial items such as providing a room for a graduate student who is in their area to do research. To do this, we would need lists from Development to establish networks. Dean Blonigen questioned how donors would respond to such a request. Dean Berglund suggested inviting a Development officer to attend a future Graduate Council meeting.

Professor Henney stated that the UO Alumni Association has hired James Chang for alumni outreach. Mr. Change is Director of the Duck Career Network, and he can be helpful if you have particular companies you would like to work with in connection with the Dixon Award.
Graduate Student Research Forum

Kyle Reynolds reminded Council members that the Graduate Student Research Forum will be held on Friday, March 7, 2014. He noted that participation by graduate students has increased. There will be 170 graduate students in more than 50 disciplines participating.

In a new development this year, the poster session will offer $1,000 awards to outstanding posters in five categories:
- Information and Physical Sciences
- Life Sciences
- The Professions, Social Sciences and the Arts
- Education and Development
- Campus Contribution and Career Development.

These awards have been made possible by the support of several Eugene businesses, including Acroname, Organic Consultants, Concentric Sky, and Life Development. Representatives from these businesses have also volunteered their time to serve as judges for the poster contest. Dean Berglund noted that the award money for the poster session has come from external sponsors, and he sees this as another way to build connections with potential donors.

Professor Enjuto Rangel asked if it would be possible to also award graduate students who are in the panel sessions. Dean Berglund noted that the Graduate School would also like to do this, but questions how these panels would be judged when there are concurrent sessions making it difficult for judges to attend all the sessions they would be judging. He asked Council members to provide feedback if they have ideas about how this could be done.

Kyle Reynolds encouraged Council members to attend the event and to encourage others to attend as well.

Plans for Honoring Sandi Morgen

Dean Fisher reported that there will be an Open House on Wednesday, February 26th from 10:30am-12:00pm at the Graduate School to honor Dean Morgen. This year's Graduate Student Research Forum will be dedicated to Dean Morgen who started these forums five years ago after the Graduate Student Advisory Board noted the need for such an opportunity. The Graduate School staff is making a contribution to "Outrunning Ovarian Cancer" the half-marathon that Dean Morgen's daughter will be participating in next month.

Professor White suggested the Graduate Council issue a formal thank you letter that acknowledges the work of Dean Morgen that each of the Council members would sign. The Council unanimously approved this suggestion.

Professor Hodges suggested creating an award in Sandra Morgen's name to be given at the Graduate Student Research Forum in future years. This could be done through an endowed gift fund. Professor White suggested that UO departments could be asked for contributions to the fund. Dean Fisher and Professor Stabile agreed to look into what is needed to establish a fund or endowment.

Proposed Senate Legislation on Committee Meeting Transparency

Professor Lawndes referred to an open meetings proposal that provides as follows: "the meetings of all committees that report to the Senate shall be open to all. These committees are the University Standing Committees and the Senate Budget Committee. The Committee Chair shall notify the Senate's Executive Coordinator of the time, place and agenda for each meeting. Said notification shall be given not less than one week in advance of the meeting except when that meeting follows a previous meeting by less than one week and is announced at that meeting. In that case, the notice shall be made as soon as is feasible. Upon receipt, the Senate's Executive Coordinator shall post notices on the Senate Web site."
Professor White noted that the Graduate Council is open through representation of departments. After discussion, the Council decided to ask for clarification of the definition of open meeting; i.e., would the meeting be open to the public or just the UO public and would attendees be allowed to participate or have a voice in the meeting. Professor Lowndes will follow up with Josh Snodgrass who chairs the Undergraduate Council and who first brought this to the Graduate Council's attention.

Announcements

The two open positions for the Associate Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost for Graduate Studies have been now posted. The positions are open to UO Employees only. The application date for priority consideration is February 26, 2014.

Dean Fisher reported on contract talks between the University and the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation. To date, the bargaining sessions have yielded tentative agreements on five articles and more tentative agreements are expected in the coming weeks. Discussions continue about economic issues, including health insurance.

Adjourn

The Council adjourned at 4:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cecilia Enjuto Rangel
Graduate Council Secretary