MINUTES
The Graduate Council
May 21, 2014
Johnson Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Li-Shan Chou, Patricia Dewey, Alexandre Dossin, Cecilia Enjuto Rangel, Kassy Fisher (ex officio), Sara Hodges, Ruth Keele (ex officio), Alexander Lewis, Joseph Lowndes, Dorothee Ostmeier, Mark Watson (ex officio), Frances White

Members Absent: Barbara Altmann (ex officio); Andy Berglund (ex officio); Bruce Blonigen (ex officio); Jeffrey Ewing, Kimberly Espy (ex officio); Michele Henney, Kent McIntosh, Debra Merskin, Bish Sen, Carol Stabile

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Kellie Geldreich, Cortney McIntyre-Trent, Marcia Walker

The meeting was called to order at 3:35pm. The April 16, 2014 minutes were approved with clerical amendment.

Old Business

None

New Business

Brainstorm 2014-15 Graduate Council Goals

Professor Lowndes asked Council members their thoughts on possible topics or goals for the 2014-15 Graduate Council. Topics that Council members suggested include:

- Alternative Career Opportunities
- On-Line Education
- Recruitment of Graduate Students and International Recruitment
- Graduate Student Growth Expectations—should the Graduate Council take a stand
- Coordinate with Development regarding Increasing Scholarships and Grants
- Summer Funding for International Students
- Developing a Partnership between Senior and Junior Faculty, wherein Senior Faculty would help Junior Faculty Become Better Mentors to Students

Professor Lowndes noted that some of the topics that fit together might be combined. Dean Fisher stated that with a new Council next year, it might be best to compile these ideas and let the 2014-15 Graduate Council decide which to undertake. Professor Lowndes suggested that a subcommittee of the Graduate Council look at the items and themes. Professor Hodges said it might be good to then send this information to the new Council members prior to the first meeting of next year. Professor White said that she would be happy to take the lead on developing such a subcommittee.

Master of Laws (LL,M) Proposal

Guests: Adell Amos, Associate Dean Academic Affairs/Associate Professor
       Eric Priest, Faculty Director, LL.M. Program, Assistant Professor

Dean Amos explained that the UO School of Law seeks approval to enhance its existing Master of Laws degree program. The UO School of Law currently offers an LL.M. degree in Environmental and Natural Resources Law, and now seeks to expand the program to a general “umbrella” structure degree program,
under which students will choose from among several legal subject-matter concentrations, including environmental law as one option. This proposal requires the approval of no new courses, it does not require significant curricular changes, and does not require the hiring of any new faculty. The enhanced program will differ from the current program primarily in that it will afford the School of Law the flexibility to offer concentrations in areas of legal studies in addition to environmental law.

Professor Priest stated that because this is meant to enhance an existing program by adding concentrations, no curricular change is involved. The purpose is to give students more options to take J.D. courses and concentrations.

Professor White stated that the Council needs to see actual course numbers.

Professor Dewey asked about the demand for this program and encouraged collaboration with the department of Planning, Public Policy, and Management (PPPM).

Professor Priest stated that in countries like China, there is a high demand for the LL.M. The Environmental specialty is hard to market on its own. By expanding the LL.M. degree to other areas, the market becomes much broader.

Dean Amos said that there are currently concurrent degrees with PPPM, and that she would be happy to collaborate with PPPM regarding the LL.M. degree. Dean Amos noted that the market for J.D. and LL.M. degrees is shrinking for domestic students. However, international students are interested in obtaining LL.M. degrees as they want some training in American law.

Professor Priest explained that international students hold a J.D. equivalent from their own country—it is an admissions requirement for international students—so they already have a foundation in law when they apply for the LL.M. degree.

Professor White stated that the courses need to be regularized.

Professor Ostmeier noted that the first aim of this proposal seems to be to put in place an umbrella structure, and the second aim seems to be to attract international students. With regard to the international student focus, she asked if there might be a future opportunity to send American students to other countries? Professor Priest said that this is already being done, and three students recently went to China for LL.M. degrees.

Dean Fisher noted that based on the Graduate Council discussion, beyond course numbering, there appears to be no substantive changes required at this time. She suggested that a new draft of the LL.M. proposal be submitted to the Graduate School, and upon receipt, Graduate Council members will vote by email on whether to approve.

Senior Vice President and Provost Scott Coltrane—Future of the Graduate School Discussion

Provost Coltrane reported that there is a restructuring under consideration in which the Graduate School would be separate from the Office of Research, Innovation and Graduate Education (RIGE), resulting in the Graduate School having its own dean. Provost Coltrane invited feedback from Graduate Council members as to whether the UO would be better served if the Graduate School has its own Dean and is separate from RIGE.

Professor White said that this is a "no brainer"—the Graduate School should be separate as its function is much broader. It would also eliminate the possibility of any conflict of interest.

Provost Coltrane noted that there would still need to be collaboration between the Graduate School and RIGE. Financial affairs of the two entities would need to be separated, and a financial person may need to be hired in the Graduate School to help effectuate that process.

Provost Coltrane stated that there would need to be a search for the Dean of the Graduate School and asked Council members if it should be an internal or external search.
Professor Enjuto Rangel stated that it should be an internal search, appointing a person who knows the faculty and is familiar with UO. She also stated that we need a Graduate School dean who will be an advocate for graduate students and graduate education.

Professor Chou noted that graduate education is evolving. He suggested hiring a person who could think outside the box when thinking of the future. Professor Chou thought it might be desirable to hire an internal person for the present and later do an external search.

Provost Coltrane stated that the position would be advertised with a three-year term. Andy Berglund has agreed to be the Interim Dean of the Graduate School between now and January 1, 2015. Therefore, a search should be launched right away. VP Coltrane asked for volunteers for the Search Committee. The following Council members volunteered: Frances White, Mark Watson, Patricia Dewey, and Alexandre Dossin.

Provost Coltrane said the timeline would involve preliminary work in June/July, with interviews for the Graduate School dean position occurring in October or November. VP Coltrane asked what constituencies should be included. Council members suggested: Officers of Administration; Graduate Students; Directors of Graduate Studies, Staff Support; and would like to see a balance of those coming from Humanities as well as the other disciplines.

**Deans’ Updates/Announcements**

**Leave Policy for Graduate Students**

Kellie Geldreich explained that the current continuous enrollment expectation is that students must remain continuously enrolled in 3+ credits, with the exception of summer term, until all program requirements have been completed unless leave has been approved.

There are two leave statuses under the current leave policy:

1. **“On-Leave”**
   - Master’s and pre-advancement doctoral students
   - Three term maximum
   - No extension of the seven-year completion deadline
   - Reason for leave not specified

2. **“In Abstentia”**
   - Doctoral students who have advanced
   - Three term maximum
   - No extension of the seven-year completion deadline
   - Reason for leave not specified

Effective fall 2014 the revised policy leave will be called **“On-Leave”** and

- For both master’s and all doctoral students
- The **In Absentia** classification will no longer be used
- Three term maximum for master’s students
- Six term maximum for doctoral students
- General reason for leave is indicated in the application
- Extension of the seven-year deadline by an equal number of terms for the students seeking leave for medical reasons or care for a new child

Professor Hodges asked if the student would still have to apply for this leave, and Ms. Geldreich replied that they would need to apply.
May 27, 2014 Directors of Graduate Studies (DGS) Meeting

The Graduate School is hosting the spring meeting of DGSs and Graduate Coordinators on Tuesday, May 27, 2014 in the Browsing Room of the Knight Library. Graduate Coordinators are also welcome.

Graduate Council Service

Dean Fisher expressed her thanks to Graduate Council members who are cycling out this year for their service.

Adjourn

The Council adjourned at 5:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Cecilia Enjuto Rangel
Graduate Council Secretary