MINUTES
The Graduate Council
October 15, 2014
Johnson Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Barbara Altmann (ex officio); Andy Berglund (ex officio); Alexandre Dossin, Aniko Drlik-Muehleck, Kassy Fisher (ex officio), Leonardo Garcia-Pabon, Erik Girvan, Victoria Herman, Sara Hodges, Ruth Keele (ex officio), Joseph Lowndes, David Riley, John Russial, Frances White, Yizhao Yang, and Ben Yang

Members Absent: Lara Bovilsky, Bruce Blonigen (ex officio), Krista Chronister, Mark Watson (ex officio),

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Kellie Geldreich, Brandy Teel, Marcia Walker

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

Review of Charge/Mission/Procedures of the Graduate Council

Dean Berglund briefly reviewed the UO Senate’s Charge to the Graduate Council which had earlier been provided to Council members.

Nomination and Election of Graduate Council Officers

Chair of the Graduate Council: Professor White 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 White nominated Sara Hodges for the Vice Chair position and Sara Hodges seconded the nomination motion. The motion passed unanimously to elect Professor Hodges as Vice Chair of the Graduate Council.

Secretary of the Graduate Council: Professor White self-nominated for the Secretary position and Sara Hodges seconded the nomination motion. The motion passed unanimously to elect Professor White as Secretary of the Graduate Council.

Graduate Council Committees

Dean Fisher outlined Graduate Council Committee descriptions. Council members will submit their selections by email to Marcia Walker. Dean Fisher noted that Brandy Teel will be the point person at the Graduate School on awards committees.

Professor Lowndes suggested including a professional development subcommittee who could work on such events as the Graduate Student Forum, 3-Minute Thesis, etc. Dean Berglund thought this was a great idea, and Dean Fisher agreed that the Graduate School would look into formulating a plan to incorporate professional development in committee service.

Deans’ Updates/Announcements

Graduate School Status Change

Dean Berglund reported that in the spring of last year the Graduate School separated from the Office for Research and Innovation. He noted that the Graduate School still collaborates closely with the Office for Research and Innovation, but the Graduate School is now a separate unit. Dean Fisher reported that President Coltrane came to Graduate Council in May of last year and solicited feedback from the Graduate Council about the proposed separation. Now a search for the Dean of the Graduate School is
being launched. It will be an internal search. There will be public meetings with candidates, and stakeholders will be able to give feedback.

Professor Girvan asked what the impetus was for the change. Dean Fisher responded that the Graduate School and the Office for Research and Innovation were not always combined. They were put together about 15 years ago when it was common among universities to do so. Now, it is not a common occurrence, and the UO would be the only university to have such a configuration.

Senior Vice Provost Altmann added that it sometimes depends on the person in the Vice President of Research position and whether they wish to retain the Vice Provost of Graduate School title and duties. When Vice President Espy left, the UO President and Provost separated the two in order to allow the Graduate School to flourish as a separate entity. Senior Vice Provost Altmann reported that the Vice Provost for Graduate Studies position was eliminated. She noted that having a Dean of the Graduate School means that the Graduate School Dean will have a seat at the table with every other Dean, as this is where the Graduate School needs to be represented.

Dean Fisher added that the Graduate School will now have a Dean and Associate Dean.

Changes in Graduate School Staff

Dean Fisher reported that Brandy Teel is the new Engagement and Opportunities Manager at the Graduate School. Her areas of responsibility include awards, events, graduate student professional development, and postdoctoral fellow support. Brandy formerly served as Director of the ASUO Women’s Center and has experience with event planning.

In addition, Nancy Willcox-Trent started just today at the Graduate School. She will support the Graduate School in the areas of managing operations and advising the Deans regarding budgetary decisions and implementing financial duties.

Dean Berglund reported that there is an inaugural faculty-in-residence program in the Graduate School. In this capacity, faculty will work on discrete projects as well as provide perspective on various matters as a faculty member involved with and committed to graduate education. This year they are Lamia Karem, who will focus on diversity and retention, and Ann Tedards, who will focus on curricular matters and program review.

Campaign Update

Dean Berglund stated that he has been involved with composing a document for the campaign that lays out goals including graduate student support and funding for innovative ideas. We have a Development Director, Matt Hutter, who we share with the Office for Research and Innovation. An Associate Director of Development, Michelle Kuhnle, was recently hired to work with us as well. Matt Hutter will focus on larger gifts, and Michelle will focus on smaller gifts which may help fund programs such as the Graduate Research Forum and 3-Minute Thesis competition.

Dean Berglund encouraged those with questions about the campaign to send him an email.

GTFF Bargaining Update

Dean Fisher reported that the parties have entered into mediation. The GTFF is waiting for members to return this fall, and it is her understanding that there will be a vote by the members this week. The Graduate School website posts regular updates on bargaining, and the GTFF website also has information outlining their position. Regarding next steps, the GTFF union could vote to strike or alternatively, could vote for ratification. The mediation timeline provides that if either side declares an impasse, there is a 30-day cooling off period, and a 10 day notice to strike must be given.

Old Business

None.
New Business

Specialization in Translation Studies

Guests Professor Susan Anderson, Professor, German and Scandinavian and Amalia Gladhart, Professor of Spanish, attended the meeting to speak with Graduate Council members about the Specialization in Translation Studies. The proposed specialization in Translation Studies seeks to foster UO graduate students’ interest and offer them the opportunity to receive recognition for work in this academic inter-discipline. The Translation Studies specialization aims (1) to draw on and strengthen current interdisciplinary offerings in Languages, Literatures, Anthropology, Folklore, and Linguistics at UO. (2) The Specialization will contribute to enriching graduate offerings, seeking opportunities in participating departments to expand course offerings. (3) The specialization will work to bring forward the profile of UO as an institution committed to globalized, international intellectual approaches generally and to the increasingly prominent field of Translation Studies specifically.

The Translation Studies specialization is designed to address the specific communicative and aesthetic opportunities and constraints that arise in multi- or cross-lingual encounters.

Professor Hodges asked what is meant by the term “graduate-level proficiency” as found in the described course of study. Professor Gladhart responded that the student should have the ability to translate text from a foreign language, even if not at the most sophisticated level. Professor Anderson noted that not all students who have this specialization may want to be translators.

Professor Hodges noted that the proposal states that the central Translation Studies specialization coordinator will be a faculty member of Romance Languages. She asked if, in the future, the coordinator must be from the Romance Languages department. Professor Anderson replied that there is no reason that the coordinator position must reside in Romance Languages.

Professor Herman asked if it might be appropriate to model the specialization on other Universities’ programs. Professor Anderson said that this specialization is not as technical as some programs at other Universities, and it is different in the sense that the specialization is an add-on, not a stand-alone program.

Professor Russial commented that in the proposed curriculum there is only one required course, either COLT 613 or RL 507 on the history, theory, and practice of translation. He did not see that COLT 163 was offered this year. Professor Anderson responded that COLT 163 is offered every other year. She noted that the student can approach coursework in any order.

Professor Gilvan stated that it was his understanding that the specialization in Translation Studies would be transcripted. He asked if there is enough coursework that a hiring entity would know that the student has enough substantive coursework to have the ability to translate. Professor Anderson said that she thinks there is enough coursework, pointing out the Translation Studies core seminar requirement as well as the research colloquia where students will present a translation project or theoretical paper during one term and serve as a respondent during the other term.

Kellie Geldreich asked if this specialization will be open to both master’s and doctoral students. Professor Anderson replied that it will be, but master’s students might find it challenging to fit the requirements of the specialization in to the shortened time it takes to obtain a master’s degree.

Professor White commented that it is nice to see a proposal with regularized classes. She asked if there would be difficulty in scheduling graduate level courses considering the budget model. Professor Anderson replied that there already exists many graduate level courses dealing with translation studies. Professor Gladhart added that the specialization will use courses that are already an integral part of programs.

The Graduate Council then discussed the proposal.

Professor Hodges suggest that graduate level competency be defined and that the budget be clarified.
Professor Russial asked if the specialization was explicitly valued. Vice Provost Altmann stated that the specialization is a valued added to an academic degree that can help move graduate students into a working field.

Professor Girvan noted that one third of the courses are targeted to people with a language background and stated that three 600-level courses might be a little light.

Professor White moved to approve the specialization with the amendments discussed. Professor Hodges seconded the motion. The Graduate Council unanimously approved the proposal for a graduate specialization in Translation Studies with amendments discussed.

Proposal for a Master of Science Degree Program in Sports Product Management

Guest Roger Best, Professor Emeritus Marketing, LCB, attended the meeting to speak with Graduate Council members about the proposal. Professor Best noted that this is a unique opportunity as there is no other university offering a program like this. There are over 800 sports product companies in Oregon, and this program will produce professionals that are needed. He stated that there exists the resources, faculty, and knowledge to offer this degree. He said that we are in the right spot at the right time.

Professor Hodges noted that the proposal states that funding will be supported by gifts, and asked if that was a secure source of funding. Professor Best responded that there was seed money provided by the state of Oregon and a donor contributed $500,000 to start. In addition, workshops will provide income of approximately $50,000 this year and $100,000 next year. The business model provided is conservative; $200,000 to $300,000 should be generated for the campus by the third year. There is also a $10 to $15 million endowment that he is believes will be forthcoming.

Professor Russial noted that the proposal states that one quarter of the students will be Oregon residents, one quarter will be domestic out-of-state, and one half will be international students. He asked what would happen if those percentages change. Professor Best explained that the industry wants a diverse body of students and there is a world-wide demand for these graduates. The first goal is to take the very best students. There is already high international student interest in this program.

Professor Russial asked if these international students will stay in Oregon after they graduate. Professor Best responded that there are jobs available in this field all over the world. He noted again that there are 800 sports product companies in Oregon. More companies such as Under Armour are moving to Oregon to join the alpha cluster. Professor Best explained that an alpha cluster is a cluster of businesses with the same interest that are aggregated in one location. Education supports these alpha clusters, allowing both to grow.

Professor Russial asked about the class JOUR 623, Creativity in Strategic Communications that is listed in the proposal’s course of study. He noted that this is a small class and it is not offered this term. In addition, it is a capstone class and more discussion needs to occur with Journalism before it becomes a requirement of this degree program. Professor Best said he would look into the vetting process for this class. Professor Hodges noted that adding students would change the tenor of the class. Professor Russial stated that a class of 10 students cannot suddenly become a class of 30 students.

Professor Ben Yang asked about the Portland faculty. Professor Best explained that there will be a cluster hiring of four faculty in Portland who will carry an important part of the teaching load. There will also be adjunct professors in Portland, and it will also be available to faculty on campus who may want to teach in Portland.

Kellie Geldreich asked if this was the program of study with no electives. Professor Best said that is correct. Kellie Geldreich then asked about advising students. Professor Best stated that every student will have an industry mentor and a faculty advisor. There would also be a lot of interaction with the program director who would review the site every week.

Professor Russial asked about the role of the program coordinator. Professor Best responded that the director is the person who oversees the whole implementation of the program, while the coordinator is more of an administrator who deals with such issues as admissions.
Professor White asked if HPHY 608, Human Physiology & Sports Products, is a new class offering. Professor Best stated that the department of Human Physiology said that they will develop the course specifically for this program, otherwise it would have prerequisites. Professor White stated that it would be useful to have emails of support from departments such a Journalism and Human Physiology stating what they plan to do for the Sports Product Management program. She suggested this be done for all courses that are listed in the proposal.

Professor Girvan noted that it is not just the commitment of departments, but also the synchronicity with Portland. Professor Best responded that all the departments said they would come to Portland to offer the classes. Dean Fisher asked Professor Best to document those statements as well.

Vice Provost Keele noted that one of the strengths of the program is its connection to industry. She asked Professor Best to make sure the proposal documents the academic role and purpose of industry participation and shows how the oversight of industrial members will be managed. Professor Hodges would like to see documentation from at least some of the industry members that they have agreed to be mentors. Professor White suggested that it could be one letter that all the mentors sign.

Professor Yizhao Yang asked if there is a consistent way of evaluating the outcome of mentors. Professor Best stated that internships are taken seriously, and the participating companies will assess the candidates’ performance. He noted that the plan is for domestic students to have international internships, and conversely, international students to have domestic internships. Professor Yizhao Yang asked if these are paid internships. Professor Best replied that there will be minimal pay to cover living expenses.

The Graduate Council discussed the proposal.

Dean Fisher asked about the timeline for implementation of this proposal. Dean Berglund stated that the department wants to start offering this program in the fall of 2015, as they are already receiving pre-applications. He noted that there will be an external review on October 28, 2014.

Dean Fisher asked if a vote at the November 2014 Graduate Council meeting would be soon enough in the process. She noted that there are questions about the internship oversight in light of the internship being given no credits.

Professor Lowndes noted that these are complicated issues precluding a vote today by the Graduate Council. Professor Girvan stated that there is not a lot of evidence to indicate this is ready to launch in the fall of 2015.

Dean Berglund noted that the external review is due by November 5, 2014, so it would be available before the November Graduate Council meeting.

Adjourn

The Council adjourned at 5:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances White
Graduate Council Secretary