MINUTES
The Graduate Council
March 16, 2016
Johnson Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Susan Anderson (ex officio), Hank Childs, Alexandre Dossir, Krista Chronister, Stephen Frost, Leonardo Garcia-Pabon, Tony Herman, Sara Hodges (ex officio), Kaori Idemaru, Laura Jacek (ex officio), Alison Kwok, Scott Pratt (ex officio); Thomas Ptak, John Russ al, Mark Watson (ex officio) and Frances White (ex officio)

Members Absent: Mariah Acton, Bruce Blonigen (ex officio), , Shanka Chakraborty, Erik Girvan (ex officio), David Riley, and Ben Yang

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Kellie Geldreich, Marcia Walker

The meeting was called to order at 3:33pm. The February 17, 2016 minutes were unanimously approved as distributed.

New Business

Vote on Dean Recommended Item – New Couples and Family Therapy Track

Associate Professor Herman moved to approve the New Couples and Family Therapy Track proposal for a Research Option within the Master of Science degree in Couples and Family Therapy effective Fall 2016. Associate Professor Childs seconded the motion. The Graduate Council voted unanimously to approve the proposal for a Research Option within the Master of Science degree in Couples and Family Therapy effective Fall 2016.

‘Graduate Faculty’ Status Discussion

Dean Pratt noted that most research universities have Graduate Faculty who are responsible for advancing the graduate education and research missions of the university. The Graduate Faculty is composed of research-active scholars and teachers who are also engaged in graduate education. These include tenure-track faculty, non-tenure track faculty charged specifically with graduate education, and other members of the faculty approved to serve on the Graduate Faculty by the members of their academic departments.

Academic Analytics prepares comparative information of universities based on their list of research faculty. Dean Pratt noted that we need to provide Academic Analytics an accurate list of research active faculty who are eligible to serve on dissertation committees. Academic Affairs Manager Geldreich and Dean Pratt drafted a list of rules of eligibility for graduate faculty membership and eligibility to serve on master’s and dissertation committees. The Graduate Council is asked to review these rules and will at a later meeting vote as to whether or not it approves these rules.

Professor White asked about retired faculty who may wish to serve on a dissertation committee. Academic Affairs Manager Geldreich explained that these rules provide that members of the Graduate Faculty who retire may continue to serve as Chair, Co-Chair, Advisor, or Core Member of a dissertation committee for one year beyond their retirement for students for whom they were chair or member before retirement at the discretion of the department and without Graduate School exception. Additional years will be granted, with Graduate School exception, on a yearly basis depending on the current research and/or teaching activities within the discipline or department.

Senior Vice Provost Anderson said that it is her understanding that it should be research active faculty who are included as Graduate Faculty.

Dean Pratt discussed the procedure for appointment of non-tenure track faculty (NTTF) to the Graduate Faculty. The nomination of eligible NTTF to become members of the graduate faculty (on a five-year
cycle) begins in the degree-granting department. An eligible NTTF submits a letter of interest and a curriculum vita to the head of the department in which they wish to serve. The Department Head, in consultation with the Graduate Faculty in the degree-granting department, determines if the NTTF fits the criteria listed for NTTF appointment to the Graduate Faculty. If the department approves the nomination, the nomination is forwarded to the dean of the relevant School or College. Upon approval of that Dean, the nomination form and attachments are forwarded to the Graduate School for final approval. Appointments of NTTF to the Graduate Faculty will be granted for a five-year term.

Dean Pratt noted that the proposed rules regarding NTTF separate Committee service from Graduate Faculty designation.

Dean Pratt then referred to the proposed rules regarding Honor’s College Faculty which state that all tenured or tenure-track faculty members in the Honor’s College are automatically appointed to the Graduate Faculty with eligibility to serve as Core Member, Additional Core Member, or Institutional Representative. All career NTTF in the category of Lecturer and Research Professor in the Honor’s College are automatically appointed to the Graduate Faculty with eligibility to serve as Core Member or Additional Core Member. A graduate department can ask for an Honor’s College faculty member to be added as affiliated faculty to their listed Graduate Faculty members for the department.

It was agreed that Dean Pratt would re-draft the Graduate Faculty proposal separating the question of Graduate Faculty membership from the committee service guidelines. He will then re-present the proposal to the Council for consideration.

Results of Training Survey and Discussion of Future Grad Survey

Dean Pratt noted that the GTFF has proposed a significant increase in required GTF training, particularly teacher training and training related to employment. The UO believes that teacher training should not be accomplished through training mandated by the collective bargaining agreement. To this end, the Graduate School has surveyed UO departments to find out what trainings they currently offer to GTF/GRFs. The results of the survey revealed that 70 percent of the departments offer teacher training, while 16 percent do not. The Graduate School needs to work directly with departments to eliminate any gaps and to inform departments about expectations regarding teacher training. The Graduate Council can develop best practices to share with departments.

Associate Dean Hodges stated that the Psychology Department has no formal training, but GTFs who teach are first teaching assistants who grade or help in other ways without teaching, then lab instructors, and finally teach their own courses. Associate Dean Hodges said that the Graduate School plans to survey graduate students to learn which workshops they have attended and which of those they found to be valuable. Associate Dean Hodges asked the Graduate Council what other topics the survey should include. Academic Affairs Manager Geldreich stated that there was a large attendance—over 100 people—at a workshop which dealt with finding employment in areas other than academia.

Associate Professor Krista Chronister stated that both training and supervision are needed for stressful situations that occur in the classroom. There should be training to deal with these situations as well as follow-up with the GTF.

Professor White noted that if there will be classes offered in professional development, faculty FTE must be considered as well as how those classes would count as academic credit in a degree.

Graduate student Ptak noted that the Graduate Council will want to work out best practices as well as the bare minimum of what departments should offer.

Professor Kwok stated that her department offers a class called “Teaching Moments” that deals with various situations such as plagiarizing, romance, etc. The class is part of a certificate, but anyone that is interested could take it.

Associate Dean Hodges asked Council members to send her ideas about what to include in the graduate student survey.
Old Business

None.

Updates/Announcements

GTFF Bargaining Update

The GTFF asked for comprehensive cultural training to be included as part of their job. The UO has proposed a one-time, three hours of mandatory paid training for first year GTFs. The training will be offered once each term and will occur during the Week of Welcome each fall.

The GTFF asked that the UO be entirely responsible for the cost of child care.

Salary will be raised by a percentage on minimum levels, and monies will be distributed to departments on the basis of need. This allows the Graduate School to distribute monies to departments who would then be competitive with other institutions.

Finally, the UO proposed that there be a three-year contract term.

Three Minute Thesis

The UO Three Minute Thesis competition will be held this spring, with UO students competing in Eugene. The state-wide competition will be held on Saturday, May 21st from 3:00-6:00pm at Oregon State University.

The Graduate School is considering holding the Three Minute Thesis competition next year as a part of the Graduate Student Research Forum.

Adjourn

The Council adjourned at 4:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Chronister
Graduate Council Secretary