MINUTES  
The Graduate Council  
April 17, 2013  
Johnson Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Marcin Bownik, Patricia Dewey, Cecilia Enjuto Rangel, Jeffrey Ewing, Sara Hodges, Sandra Morgen (ex officio), Joseph Lowndes, Dorothee Ostmeier, Brian McWhorter, Andrew Pokorny, Mia Tuan (ex officio), Mark Watson (ex officio)

Members Absent: Barbara Altmann (ex officio), Cynthia Anderson, Kimberly Espy (ex officio), Michele Henney, Ruth Keele (ex officio), Andrew Marcus (ex officio), Debra Merskin, Bish Sen, Frances White, Alia Yasen

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Kassy Fisher, Kyle Reynolds, Marcia Walker

The meeting was called to order at 3:34pm. The February 20, 2013 and March 20, 2013 minutes were approved as distributed.

Dean Morgen announced that there are three vacancies to be filled on next year’s Graduate Council: Two in the sciences and one in music. Dean Morgen asked Council members to encourage their colleagues to apply. The Graduate School is reaching out to those who might be interested as well.

Old Business

Professional Development—Future Direction

Dean Morgen began the discussion by noting ideas about professional development from last month’s Graduate Council meeting. Some of the topics discussed were the Career Center’s availability to help graduate students, workshops, and study abroad. She asked Council members what other ideas they might have.

Professor Hodges stated that a former student of hers is employed by Facebook. She suggested a partnership between departments and the Graduate School to bring back distinguished alumni to talk to graduate students about possible careers. Professor Hodges suggested that Development could also be included. Professor Enjuto Rangel stated that this is done in her department, but it is mostly geared toward undergraduate students.

Dean Morgen stated that Penn State brings alumni back to judge at the graduate research conference, with a subsequent day devoted to development and alumni activities. Dean Morgen suggested having a professional development event during which we could bring back three to four alumni with very unique careers. She noted that we need to think about our constituency and what they would want and suggested holding an event next year to see how it works.

Dean Tuan reported that Berkeley has this type of function during their homecoming. UO could have two or three events that departments would host, and there could be a program listing events for people to choose from.

Professor Enjuto Rangel stated that it can be done on a very tight budget, recruiting people from our area. Dean Fisher stated that it has been difficult in the past to get people to respond and suggested it might be better to cast a broad net and then be able to whittle back.

Professor McWhorter suggested that returning alumni could speak to the art of freelancing as it appeals to a broader spectrum and could be of interest to students from all departments. He also suggested interfacing with the Career Center. Dean Fisher noted that the Career Center is currently developing a new website with a series of pages focused on graduate student needs.
Dean Morgen noted that there will be a Directors of Graduate Studies (DGS) meeting on June 4, 2013. Professional Development is one of the topics that will be discussed at this meeting, and we will need to get buy-in from the DGS. It would not be of use to have an event where only a few graduate students attend. Professor Hodges suggested asking DGS if they have ideas to help graduate students with professional development, as there are some faculty members who are expert career advisors.

Dean Morgen reported that there have been data distribution meetings with all the departments. The attendees at the meeting include Vice President Espy, Deans Morgen and/or Tuan, Department Heads and DGSs. The data revealed that across the board, professional development was rated as “poor,” with students stating that they were dissatisfied because they were not receiving enough or the right kind of advice about their professional development. Some departments are doing more than others, but we heard considerable support for more central efforts, though with attention to disciplinary and sectoral differences.

Professor Enjuto Rangel asked about resources to help graduate students to write applications or proposals as she has noticed a great diversity in quality of these applications or proposals when serving on Committees that reviewed them. She stated that there is a great need in the Humanities to receive the same training in writing these grants as those in the Sciences receive.

Dean Morgen noted that the Graduate School offers a grants workshop, but this is a one-shot opportunity for graduate students. Professor Dewey stated that PPPM offers a one-credit course taught every term. Dean Morgen recognized that we need more options as not all graduate students can take the course or workshop. Professor Enjuto Rangel noted that we need people like Robert Long from Research and Faculty Development who could assist graduate students.

Professor Hodges brought up the idea of internships and externships to promote professional development. Dean Morgen state that the UO has an applied master’s program which is very robust and puts 100 percent of students in industry internships. This model was used when making a proposal to a donor to provide supported internships in the arts, and non-profits. The plan is quite expensive, but it is an idea the Graduate School would like to see supported as we do not have subsidized internships like those in industry.

Dean Tuan reported that she had participated in the UO Library review and the question came up as to what place there might be for the library to participate in this goal for graduate students. Mark Watson reported that there have been a series of focus groups with graduate students that has produced interesting ideas that the library would like to follow up on. The Library realizes that graduate students are among the library’s biggest customers. They are actively conducting research and they depend on library resources.

Dean Tuan noted that there are more graduate students on campus in the summer. Summer programming, e.g., with the library might work well, at least for some students. Professor Hodges stated that alumni might be more willing to come back to Oregon in the summer.

Dean Fisher stated that the Career Center maintains a list of available internships. Professor Hodges noted that the Career Center requires users to create a profile in order to use their website and suggested that there should be easier access.

Andrew Pokorny stated that timing is important when advising graduate students about available resources such as websites or professional development presentations. When graduate students are far from graduation, they often don’t have time or don’t think about these things. He suggested that advisors be aware of the timeline and advise graduate students when they should be looking at professional development resources. Professor Hodges agreed and stated that it is especially important that DGSs be on board.

Professor McWhorter suggested that the UO Career Center might serve as a clearing house of job opportunities that are available.

Professor Ostmeier stated that it is important because some advisors believe it is only their job to get graduate students through school.
Dean Morgen stated that with DGSs, the Graduate Council can create momentum to shift the current environment.

**New Business**

**Enhancing the IS:IP Program**

Dean Morgen began the discussion of the Interdisciplinary Studies: Individualized Program (IS:IP) by noting that this is a program with potential for which the UO could be doing a better job. She then gave an overview of the program.

The IS:IP is a flexible, but academically rigorous, master’s degree program that the Graduate School oversees. Working within the established guidelines of the program, students plan a course of study specifically designed to explore their interests and work with a faculty committee to pursue and complete their program. Students may select course work from three departments in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), from three professional schools, or from a combination of professional schools and CAS departments. The curriculum must be composed of existing courses from three different departments that grant the master’s degree.

The IS:IP applicant must select three departments and must have an academic advisor in each department. Because the budget money doesn’t flow to the departments, the proposed program must be attractive to the advisors. The advisor in each department helps the student determine the best 15 credits in that department for the student to take. IS:IP students have no cohort and no graduation.

Dean Morgen speaks to each potential IS:IP student as part of the admission process and usually discourages students from entering IS:IP unless this is really the right program for them. So students who are admitted are very focused and often have great projects. There were approximately 140 Folklore students in IS:IP over the last ten years when Folklore emerged within and the separated from IS:IP.

Over the past 10 years approximately 75 percent of IS:IP students have completed the program, with a range of projects in CAS, PPPM, Business, and the College of Education to name a few. The Graduate School is in the process of getting a clearer sense of the metrics and will survey IS:IP students regarding their thoughts about the program.

Dean Morgen asked Council members if they thought this issue is one that should be addressed by the Graduate Council. The issues are making the IS:IP more rigorous, examining budget model issues, figuring out better ways to ensure strong advising, and supporting both faculty and students financially. Dean Morgen opened the floor for feedback.

Professor Lowndes asked how many graduate students are in the program now. Dean Morgen replied that there are currently five to six students in IS:IP. She reported that she has talked to about 20 students and admitted one or two during her tenure. Dean Morgen stated that she spends about an hour with each student, going over which departments and faculty would best suit their plan.

Professor Ostmeier stated that IS:IP is an important program that gives students new opportunities. She noted that the structure of the program is important—finding the right faculty for the students to work with.

Dean Morgen noted that if students cannot work through the challenging admissions process by building their own structure, they probably won’t make it through the program.

Professor McWhorter asked if there were any “prepackaged” programs to give students ideas of what might be available, and Dean Morgen responded that currently there was not. Dean Fisher noted that this might be a good idea when we’re ready to unfurl the new program, but currently it would be premature.

Professor Lowndes asked if there is any institutional setting where IS:IP students get together. Dean Morgen stated that she has spoken to Oregon State University (OSU) who has a robust IS:IP program. OSU has a one credit introduction to IS:IP which creates a cohort. OSU has a faculty member who oversees the program.
Professor McWhorter stated that IS:IP might be a good program for the arts.

Dean Morgen pointed out that one thing IS:IP does not have are graduate teaching fellows. Having at least 1-2 GTFs targeted to the program could attract strong students.

Professor Enjuto Rangel asked what careers IS:IP students go into once they have graduated. Dean Tuan responded that one IS:IP student is an administrator at the University of Kentucky.

There was more discussion of potential changes in the budget model and admissions procedures.

Dean Morgen suggested a potential subcommittee, more attention to this issues next year and potentially holding an event next year to reach out to interested faculty.

Data Distribution Meetings

Dean Morgen asked Council members if they had heard any positive or negative comments from faculty or students about the discussions held in data distribution meetings.

Professor Dewey responded that feedback has been positive in all aspects regarding trends and patterns. She did hear that the instrument is problematic, especially with the selection options. Professor Dewey stated that data results were discussed in faculty meetings, student meetings, and with a graduate student advisory group. She noted that many were impressed with the thoroughness of the data.

Dean Morgen reported that the Graduate School is going to do a data dump with all cross themes that will be brought to the Graduate Council next fall. We are using this year to gather the data. The Graduate School is also revising the exit survey, and Dean Morgen asked Council members to forward any ideas they have for changes.

Budget Model

Dean Morgen stated that she has been meeting with a group who is drafting recommendations for changes to the current Budget Model. A few of the items being considered are:

- A modest revision of the budget model to allow monies to move to the departments where students are taking graduate level classes;
- Reducing the minimum enrollment to one credit for doctoral students who have advanced to candidacy.
- Allowing an in-state default status for doctoral students who have advanced to candidacy to allow them to pay in-state tuition.

Dean Morgen noted recognition that investment in graduate education programs should not be tied to undergraduate boom and bust cycles.

Deans’ Updates

Challenges in Graduate Education Colloquium

On Wednesday, May 1st from 12:00-1:30pm in the Gerlinger Lounge, Karen P. DePauw, Vice President and Dean for Graduate Education at Virginia Tech will speak about Transformative Graduate Education. This is a luncheon event during which Dr. DePauw will talk about an initiative she has spearheaded at Virginia tech called “Transformative Graduate Education.” Its goals include developing programs that push the boundaries of traditional disciplinary academic education and provide the underpinnings for innovative, cutting-edge programs. At its core the initiative aims to significantly change how graduate students are prepared to become the next generation of scientists, educators, scholars, engineers, artists, and career professionals in an ever-evolving global context.

Graduate Student Research Forum
The Graduate Student Research Forum will be held May 9, 2013 this year. The Graduate School will be contacting faculty in the near future to serve as moderators. It is important for faculty to come to the event, even for a short time, to support graduate students. Dean Fisher reported that an email will be sent to lists this week reminding them of the event and the event schedule will be posted on the Graduate School’s website.

Three Minute Thesis

Kyle Reynolds, Coordinator of Student Affairs, of the Graduate School reminded Council members of the Three Minute Thesis competition. The exercise develops academic, presentation, and research communication skills and supports the development of graduate students’ capacity to effectively explain their research in three minutes in a language appropriate to an intelligent but non-specialist audience.

Some background
- Students must present their research in under three minutes and may use one static power point slide or image as a visual aid during the presentation
- The goal is for students to practice communicating their research in a comprehensible, accessible, and concise manner while engaging the audience
- Students may present any thesis, dissertation, capstone, or research project they are working on
- The top five finishers from each of the opening rounds will advance to the championship on Wednesday, May 8.

Schedule of Events
- Opening Round 1- Tuesday, April 23 from 4-6 in McKenzie 221
- Opening Round 2- Wednesday May 1 from 4-6 in Ford Alumni Ballroom
- Championship- Wednesday May 8 form 4-5:30 in the EMU Fir Room

Dean Morgen encouraged Council members to attend and to spread the word to their departments.

Adjourn

The Council adjourned at 5:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cecilia Enjuto Rangel