Members Present: Barbara Altmann (ex officio), Marcin Bownik, Kimberly Espy (ex officio), Sara Hodges, Joseph Lowndes, Andrew Marcus (ex officio), Brian McWhorter, Sandra Morgen (ex officio), Dorothee Ostmeier, Cecilia Enjuto Rangel, Bish Sen, Mia Tuan (ex officio), Frances White

Members Absent: Cynthia Anderson, Patricia Dewey, Michele Hennery, Debra Merskin, Andrew Pokorny, Mark Watson (ex officio)

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

The meeting was called to order at 3:33pm. The Graduate Council meeting opened with introductions of those in attendance.

Old Business

Dean Morgen briefly reviewed policy changes the Graduate Council approved last year. They included changes to the composition of the doctoral committee, Skype attendance at oral defenses, and a host of changes to enrollment, turn in times for dissertations, etc. Dean Morgen reported that the Deans’ Working Group would like a more open Skype policy and asked that the Graduate Council reconsider increasing the number of members who can participate by Skype.

Dean Morgen reported that the College of Education recently asked if the Graduate Council would reconsider and allow non-tenure-track faculty to serve as Committee Chair on a dissertation committee. The Graduate Council will revisit this policy. Professor White suggested that a representative from the College of Education attend a Graduate Council meeting to explain their concerns.

New Business

Graduate Council Officers

Three people agreed to be nominated as Officers:
- Sara Hodges as Chair
- Brian McWhorter as Vice Chair
- Cecilia Enjuto Rangel as Secretary

There were no additional nominations from the floor. The slate of officers was approved unanimously.

Review of Charge to the Graduate Council

Dean Morgen reviewed the responsibilities charged to the Graduate Council.

Graduate Council Committees

Dean Morgen outlined Graduate Council Committee descriptions. Marcia Walker will send an email to Graduate Council members asking them to submit their first and second choices for Committee assignments to her at (marcia@uoregon.edu).

Data Dissemination for Program Enhancement

Dean Morgen gave an overview about the dissemination of data to departments via virtual notebooks containing data about graduate programs. These notebooks contain data about graduate program quality, the graduate student experience, and program outcomes. The data are drawn from the following
sources: Academic Analytics, American Association of Universities Data Exchange (AAUDE), the Graduate Student Experience Survey, and the Graduate School Exit Survey.

Dean Morgen stated that in the next few meetings, Graduate Council members will be asked to provide input on how to best reach and engage constituents.

**Graduate Student Support**

Dean Morgen said that in future meetings she will be asking the Graduate Council to help think through how to promote stronger alignment of institutional resources with centrality of graduate education and the research mission.

**Graduate Specialization**

Dean Morgen distributed a handout titled, “Call for Proposals: Innovation in Graduate Education – 2012-13: Supporting Graduate Specializations.” She noted that information about this can also be found on the Graduate School Website, and explained that a graduate specialization is either 1) a subdivision of a major or 2) an interdisciplinary track in which a strong graduate-level curriculum is available. Once approved, graduate specializations are indicated after the major on official records and transcripts once the student graduates with his or her primary degree.

Dean Morgen noted that this policy will need to go through the same process of review within the University, but it does not go to OUS for consideration.

**Graduate Student Research Forum**

Dean Morgen reported that this year’s Graduate Student Research Forum will take place on Friday, May 10, 2013, at the end of a RIGE sponsored Research Week. The Forum will incorporate the six UO Strategic Research Themes. More information can be found on the Graduate School website.

**Presentation on Academic Analytics**

Dean Espy explained that the UO has recently subscribed to the Academic Analytics Database (AAD) which is a resource that provides high quality data about scholarly output to client institutions on an annual basis. This information builds on earlier assessments by the Graduate School and will provide data that will help us achieve our goal to advance academic excellence.

These data are intended to be interpreted and used at the department or program level where contextual information and the triangulation of multiple data sources can help inform local level assessment of graduate programs and planning. The Graduate School plans to meet with the department head and director of graduate studies of each graduate program during the winter and spring 2013 to discuss the data and their vision and plans for program enhancement.

**Deans’ Updates**

**On-Line Application Going Live**

Dean Morgen announced that there is now available a new customizable department application, thanks to the hard work of Jered Nagel, the Graduate School Steering Committee (Nagel, Morgen, Wolter) and a committee of users from various departments (The Project Implementation Team or PIT Crew) who gave input on the design of the application. The new application is more user-friendly and contains new decision tools that allow for easier departmental review of applications. Dean Morgen asked Council members to talk with their departments about the new application and to report any concerns. She suggested that departments who are not currently using the application should look at it again.
Collective Bargaining

Dean Fisher reported that the 2012-14 Collective Bargaining agreement is now in place, with the GTFF ratifying the new contract. Some of the key aspects include an increase in minimum salaries by 2% in 2012-13 and another 1.5% in 2013-14; an increase in the University’s contribution to mandatory fees, and a contribution of 5% by GTFs to their health insurance premium. The Graduate School website contains further information about the UO-GTFF agreement.

Dean Fisher announced that the bargaining team is gearing up to get ideas for the next round of bargaining and would like to make time at an upcoming Graduate Council meeting to discuss development of a committee to assess new ideas for bargaining.

Changes in Graduate School Staff

Dean Morgen introduced Kyle Reynolds, Coordinator of Student Affairs and Programming for the Graduate School. Mr. Reynolds explained his role at the Graduate School, which includes, among other duties, coordinating professional development workshops for graduate students, awards and funding, and overseeing the Graduate Student Research Forum. Dean Morgen stated that Mr. Reynolds is also working to make the Graduate Student Center in Susan Campbell Hall a rich and robust space for graduate students to use.

Other Items

Professor White asked about the issue of on-line classes. There will be further discussion of this later in the year.

Professor White also asked about a policy to allow graduate students who are not GTFs to be allowed to pay in-state tuition. Dean Espy reported that this issue is currently in the evaluation phase, although we currently are bound by OUS rules.

Adjourn

The Council adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Cecilia Enjuto Rangel