MINUTES
The Graduate Council
September 21, 2016
Johnson Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Lara Bovilsky, Krista Chronister, Stephen Frost, Leonardo Garcia-Pabon, Erik Girvan, Sara Hodges (ex officio), Jacqlyn King, Scott Pratt (ex officio); Nicholas Proudfoot, John Russial, Carol Stabile (ex officio), Hailan Wang, Mark Watson (ex officio), and Ben Yang

Members Absent: Ron Bramhall (ex officio), Shanka Chakraborty, Alison Kwok, and David Riley

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Kellie Geldreich, Marcia Walker

The meeting was called to order at 3:30pm. The meeting opened with introductions of those in attendance.

Nomination and Election of Graduate Council Officers

Chair of the Graduate Council: Associate Professor Russial nominated Associate Professor Bovilsky for the Chair position. Associate Professor Chronister seconded the nomination motion. The motion passed unanimously to elect Associate Professor Bovilsky as Chair of the Graduate Council.

Secretary of the Graduate Council: Associate Professor Russial nominated Associate Professor Chronister for the Secretary position and Associate Professor Bovilsky seconded the nomination motion. The motion passed unanimously to elect Associate Professor Chronister as Secretary of the Graduate Council.

Graduate Council—What It Is and What It Does

Associate Dean Hodges noted that Graduate Council is a UO Senate Committee. Often items acted upon by the Graduate Council go to the Senate for approval. The Committee Chair of the Graduate Council submits an annual report to the University Senate. As a University Senate Committee, we are subject to Senate rules which means that Graduate Council meetings are open unless the Council requests a closed meeting.

The Graduate Council is a representative Committee fixed at 14 voting members, consisting of 12 elected teaching faculty, a PhD student, and a Master’s student, as well as the Dean and Associate Dean of the Graduate School (ex officio, not voting). The Dean of the Graduate School can appoint other ex-officio, non-voting members to represent important constituencies of graduate students and faculty as needed.

Of the 12 elected teaching faculty:

• Six members are from the College of Arts and Sciences with two members representing the Humanities, two members from the Social Sciences, and two members from the Natural Sciences.
• One member from each of the professional schools/colleges which include the School of Architecture and Allied Arts, the Lundquist College of Business, the College of Education, the School of Journalism and Communication, the School of Music and Dance, and the Law School.
• The elected faculty members of the Graduate Council come from departments that have graduate programs leading to a graduate degree and conducted under the jurisdiction of the Graduate School.

Associate Dean Hodges noted that there is currently a Master’s student vacancy on Graduate Council and asked members to send her the names of any Master’s students who they believe would be a good fit.

Associate Dean Hodges explained that in addition to its advisory role, the Graduate Council is responsible for:

• Providing rules and procedures for the effective administration and application of faculty policies and regulations;
• Recommending changes in, or additions to, the policies and major regulations of the Graduate School;
• Providing for the maintenance of high standards of graduate instruction; and
• Providing an annual written report submitted by the Committee Chair to the Secretary of the University Senate.

Associate Dean Hodges reminded Council members of the importance of reviewing the materials sent to them prior to each Graduate Council meeting.

What to Look for in New Proposals

A handout of what to look for in new proposals was distributed to Council members. Associate Dean Hodges stated that before new proposals come to Graduate Council for consideration, the Graduate School has worked with the proposers to be sure the proposals are in good format. The proposals are also reviewed by Academic Affairs before coming to Graduate Council.

Assistant Professor Yang asked if the Graduate Council could rely on statements made by departments in the proposals about what would happen in the future. Dean Pratt explained that the Graduate Council’s duty is to review the academic part of the program. The Provost makes decisions about the budget before the proposal is brought before the Council. If Graduate Council members notice that no provisions are made in the proposal for various items such as library resources, it is the Council’s duty to point this out.

New Business

Lundquist College of Business (LCB) Proposal for MS Finance Program

Graduate Council members discussed the Proposal for MS Finance Program. Dean Pratt explained that currently the LCB Graduate School of management is authorized to offer Master of Science and Master of Arts degrees in its five departmental disciplines: Accounting, finance, Management, Marketing, and Operations and Business Analytics. Currently, such master’s degrees are available only to PhD students who meet the Graduate School and LCB requirements for master’s degrees.

Dean Pratt noted that one advantage in implementing the current proposal is the ability to more accurately track degrees awarded by the University.

Associate Professor Chronister noted that the Proposal states that this is a revenue-generating program with monies going back to faculty research. She asked how this would work. Dean Pratt explained that the money will go back to the Finance Program, not central LCB.

Associate Professor Proudfoot stated that he was uncomfortable that this Proposal seemed to focus more on generating revenue than academics. Dean Pratt responded that Graduate Council will likely see more proposals like this, recognizing that master’s programs can increase revenue.

Assistant Professor Girvan asked where the money would come from to hire faculty on the front end of the program.

Associate Dean Hodges noted that the STEM certification would offer international students the opportunity to stay longer in the United States to work.

Professor Garcia-Pabon asked about the number of classes offered. Graduate School Academic Affairs Manager Geldreich noted that there is a 45 minimum credit for master’s degrees with a minimum residence requirement of two terms. Dean Pratt added that the Graduate School requires a total minimum credit of 45 credits and any additional requirements set by the school or department. LCB has determined that 45 credits is an appropriate number of credits for this degree.

John Chalmers, Professor of Finance in the Lundquist College of Business than joined the Graduate Council meeting to speak about the Proposal and to answer questions from Graduate Council members.
Assistant Professor Girvan noted that the Proposal states that the department will need three new faculty hires (with one faculty member on track to be hired) to cover the additional teaching load. Because the Proposal states that additional faculty are to be funding by future program revenue, he asked how that will work.

Professor Chalmers replied that the department doesn’t want to hire additional faculty if the program turns out not to work. He stated that additional faculty will be hired only in the event that the program is successful.

Professor Chalmers stated that initially the program will have a mostly Chinese cohort. The department wants to be sure it can tailor the curriculum to the structure of the class, going at a slower or faster pace as needed. At the beginning, the department will take advantage of PhD students, adjuncts, etc. to teach classes. Associate Professor Proudfoot asked if this would affect the quality of study. Professor Chalmers replied that there are excellent PhD and other instructors to choose from.

Associate Professor Bovilsky asked about advising and the workload that will be required. Professor Chalmers stated that Chinese students who go back to China, where master’s degrees are highly valued, will not need a lot of career advising. Such students would be able to work in the United States for a year after graduation, two years if the program is certified as STEM. The department is in the process of hiring a person to manage the student experience. There will be some level of job placement.

Professor Wang asked if the Chinese students are already in the United States or if they will be coming from China. Professor Chalmers anticipates that it will be a combination of both. He stated that he has a colleague at Peking University, and he has spoken to Peking University about creating a pipeline.

Assistant Professor Yang asked about anticipated demand for the program. He noted that that there is a lot of competition with other universities and asked how the program plans to distinguish itself and attract students to the UO. Professor Chalmers replied that the reason that there are a lot of programs is because they work. He noted that Paul Allen, Associate Director of Admissions and Recruiting in LCB, believes that enough students can be recruited to make the program successful. Professor Chalmers said Peking University would serve as a source of students, and The Economist article attached to the proposal stated that these programs are popular. Professor Chalmers stated that if the UO program does not work, it can be cancelled.

Assistant Professor Girvan noted that the article in The Economist talked about the demand for degrees in quantitative finance and asked if this program had enough quantitative finance classes. Professor Chalmers replied that while the University of Washington has a quantitative finance program, it is not the focus of this program. This program’s focus is investment management, which requires classes in quantitative methods.

PhD student King asked about short-term and long-terms goals. Professor Chalmers stated that in the short term, senior faculty may need to teach more. The upside is that if the program is successful, the Finance department will be rewarded financially. Professor Chalmers added that the department either puts forth a really good program that is a revenue generator; and if not, the program will be closed down.

Professor Chalmers then left the Graduate Council meeting. After a brief discussion, Associate Professor Chronister moved to approve the LCB Proposal for MS Finance Program, and Associate Professor Yang seconded the motion. The Graduate Council unanimously voted to approve the LCB Proposal for MS Finance Program.

**Preliminary Report on New PhD Enrollment for Fall 2016**

Dean Pratt distributed a handout of a memo to the Graduate Council outlining a preliminary report on new PhD enrollment for Fall 2016. Some of the highlights of this report are:

- Based on the number of accepted offers of admission, the enrollment of first year PhD students in Fall 2016 will be 70 students more than Fall 2015. This represents a 35 percent increase over last year’s class.
- We will award 37 First Year Fellowships and, by converting five fellowships into “top-off” awards, an additional 23 Dean’s First Year Merit Awards to members of the 2016 entering class using $800,000 provided by the President.
Forty-six Promising Scholar Award recipients have accepted offers of admission, more than twice the number enrolled last year. The additional awards were funded by $100,000 in non-recurring funds from the President’s Office. These awards of $5,000 each go to outstanding incoming graduate students from underrepresented groups.

The Graduate School also provided additional support for recruitment using $68,500 in non-recurring funds from the Provost’s Office. About $24,500 was used to bring 38 prospective students to campus and $44,000 was used to provide top-up or summer support for 19 students (about two-thirds of those who were offered this additional support).

Dean Pratt noted that all this was accomplished by departments who were more selective and did excellent work contacting students and convincing them to come to the UO.

The Council adjourned at 5:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Chronister
Graduate Council Secretary