MINUTES
The Graduate Council
September 18, 2019
Student Lounge, 111 Susan Campbell Hall

Members Present: Dane Christensen, Michael Fakhri, Marina Guenza, Rachael Klaiss, Aidan Kolar, Andy Karduna (ex officio), Fabienne Moore, Elizabeth Peterson (ex officio), Jeremy Piger, Leslie Straka, Angie Whalen, and Janet Woodruff-Borden (ex officio)

Members Absent: Ron Bramhall (ex officio), Liska Chan, Burke Hendrix, Seth Lewis, Hauxin Lin, Dorothee Ostmeier, and Phil Scher (ex officio),

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Jered Nagel, 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: Professor Guenza nominated Professor Ostmeier for the Chair position. Associate Dean Straka seconded the nomination motion. The motion passed unanimously to elect Professor Ostmeier as Chair of the Graduate Council.

Secretary of the Graduate Council: Professor Guenza nominated Associate Professor Moore for the Secretary position. Master’s student Kolar seconded the nomination motion. The motion passed unanimously to elect Associate Professor Moore as Secretary of the Graduate Council.

Graduate Council 101 - What it is and What it Does

Associate Dean Karduna explained the role of the Graduate Council and referred to the Charge to the Graduate Council from the Senate. Associate Dean Karduna stated that Graduate Council is a Senate Committee and subject to Senate rules which means that Graduate Council meetings are open unless the Council requests a closed meeting for sensitive matters.

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 College of Design, 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 Karduna 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.

Graduate Council members will also be asked to serve on Graduate Council committees such as the fellowship selection committee and the academic grievance committee.

Associate Dean Karduna 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 explaining what to look for in new proposals was distributed to Council members. Associate Dean Karduna explained that the comments on the handout came from prior Graduate Council members.

**Graduate Council Committee Service**

Associate Dean Karduna explained that Graduate Council members serve on Graduate Council committees. He will send out an email asking Council members to select the committee on which they would like to serve.

**Graduate Student Research Forum (Grad Forum)**

Dean Woodruff-Borden asked Graduate Council members for input about the Grad Forum and how we can have a broader reach to all departments. She said that approximately 120 graduate students participated last year in panels, posters, and the 3MT competition. She would like the Graduate Council to brainstorm about how to make the event more inclusive to all areas of studies and embrace all of our disciplines.

Doctoral student Klaiss thought it might be appropriate to have an advisory group formed. Dean Woodruff-Borden replied that there was an advisory group in the Graduate School, but it would be good to expand it.

Professor Piger stated that it would be better for the Economics students to have the forum in fall rather than spring. Associate Dean Straka noted that for students in the School of Music and Dance the problem is with the venue as it doesn't lend itself to performance arts. Dean Janet Woodruff-Borden said that it would be good to have musical performances and more creative activity at the Forum.

Doctoral student Klaiss said that she thought the Forum was for students who were later in their studies, and as a first or second-year student she didn't feel that she qualified.

Associate Dean Karduna said that presentations at the Forum can be anything in the area of scholarship, even a class paper. It's where graduate students can get feedback. The Forum is welcome to all. Dean Woodruff-Borden added that students have a professional dialogue with judges and students get feedback about their work. The goal of the Forum is to celebrate the breadth of what graduate students are doing.
Assistant Dean Nagel pointed out that it is important to increase faculty attendance as well as it filters down to the students if the faculty see the Forum as important to attend.

**Accelerated Master’s Programs**

Associate Dean Karduna distributed guidelines for accelerated Master’s programs and a form that departments could use to submit a proposal for accelerated Master’s programs. He noted that the accelerated bachelor’s/master’s degree program is designed to allow academic units to provide its selected highest quality students with the opportunity to link advanced undergraduate coursework with graduate coursework and degree completion. This provides students with the opportunity to get a head start on the master’s degree while completing the bachelor’s degree. Such proposals must be approved by the Graduate School.

Associate Professor Moore wanted to know what the goal was in adopting accelerated Master’s programs. She asked if it was to increase the number of Master’s students or to generate revenue.

Dean Woodruff-Borden said that if we are to move forward with Master’s programs this is a good way to grow and recruit Master’s students that we may not be recruiting now. Students are concerned about the time to degree and costs. This is a way to move forward with academic integrity and at the same time meet the needs of students.

Associate Professor Moore asked which disciplines might have accelerated Master’s Programs. Dean Woodruff-Borden replied that there is not a limit and it could be applied across disciplines. Many students come in with AP credits, and this is a way to recognize those students.

Doctoral student Klaiss stated that the University where she received her undergraduate degree had accelerated Master’s programs, and she knows students who went through these programs. It allowed them to enter the job market earlier at less cost.

Dean Woodruff-Borden said that it was the goal of the Graduate School to create templates and policies for those departments who want to offer accelerated Master’s programs. Nothing changes for departments who do not want to offer them. We need to figure out what it means to be a graduate student and how courses can be double counted. Graduate Council input is important, and we don’t want watered-down Master’s programs.

Dean Woodruff-Borden said that the goal for our next meeting is to approve the general idea and then the number of credits required. The Graduate School can take the lead on what the approval process will look like. It then goes to the Graduate Council, the Undergraduate Council, and finally the Senate.

The Council adjourned at 5:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Fabienne Moore
Graduate Council Secretary