MINUTES
The Graduate Council
January 15, 2014
Johnson Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Barbara Altmann (ex officio), Bruce Blonigen (ex officio), Li-Shan Chou, Patricia Dewey, Alexandre Dossin, Cecilia Enjuto Rangel, Kimberly Espy (ex officio), Jeffrey Ewing, Kassy Fisher (ex officio), Michele Henney, Sara Hodges, Ruth Keele (ex officio), Alexander Lewis, Joseph Lowndes, Kent McIntosh, Dorothee Ostmeier, Mark Watson (ex officio), Frances White

Members Absent: Debra Merskin, Bish Sen,

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Kellie Geldreich, Kyle Reynolds, Marcia Walker

Guests: Rebecca Monro, Dennis Galvan

The meeting was called to order at 3:35pm. The November 20, 2013 minutes were approved as distributed.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Lundquist College of Business (LCB) Proposals for Specialization: Finance and Securities Analysis; Innovation and Entrepreneurship; and Sports Business – Guest Rebecca Monro

Dean Monro explained that there are centers of excellence that already exist in the LCB, and the specializations she is here to address are mirror images of those centers. The idea of offering these specializations is to formalize what students have already been doing for more than a decade.

Professor White asked about regularizing the course numbers. Dean Monro responded that LCB is in the process of doing that.

Professor Ostmeier noted that there are 24 units in one specialization and 30 units in another and asked about the difference in numbers. Dean Monro stated that LCB is on a course-based system rather than a credit system. While most are three credit courses, others—such as accounting and strategic courses—are four credits. That is where the disparity comes from.

Asst. Vice Provost Keele noted that if these specializations are approved, the earliest time for implementation would be Fall 2014.

Professor White asked about the number of students, and Dean Monro stated that there will be about 40 students each year in these specializations.

Professor Dewey commented on strategic long-term possibilities for collaboration with the Sports Business Specialization and noted AAA’s Product Design. Dean Monro noted that LCB will soon be putting forth a sport product specialization. Students specializing in Sports Business have typically taken LCB courses focusing on marketing, management, law and finance. These students also engage in a number of independent sports business projects offered through the Warsaw Sports Marketing Center.

Professor Hodges asked about the terminology used in the Innovation and Entrepreneurship specialization; specifically the terms “tool box” and “soft skills.” Professor Henney responded that “tool box” refers to technical content and “soft skills” to leadership.

Professor Ostmeier asked about the format that would be used to offer flexibility in the Innovation and Entrepreneurship specialization. Professor Henney stated that a large part of the program is based on
experiential learning. For example, in the area of corporate finance, Hewlett Packard was brought in to do a consulting project with students to address other areas needed to be successful. Students looked at environmental issues, social issues, and what it takes to be successful. The content is based around that.

After Dean Monro left the Graduate Council meeting, the Council discussed the proposed specializations by LCB. Kellie Geldreich asked about the timeline. Asst. Vice Provost Keele stated that though the Registrar’s office might be uncomfortable granting credentials that weren’t on the books when the credits were taken and questioned grandfathering them in.

Dean Fisher asked if the courses need to be regularized prior to Graduate Council approval. Asst. Vice Provost Keele stated that the Graduate Council could make approval contingent on such regularization.

Professor White noted that the courses mentioned in the specializations are already running, so there should not be a problem with faculty manpower.

Professor Lowndes suggested that we ask applicants to make the issue of sustainability a part of their application.

The Graduate Council decided to request further information about the sustainability of the specializations with regard to the faculty resources needed to teach the required courses; and if this is not a concern for these specializations, to document the reasons why. The Graduate Council will also ask for an overview of where classes are in the regularization process and to provide course syllabi.

Once the additional information is provided, the Council will vote by email.

Postdoctoral Liaison Positions

Dean Berglund explained that feedback from a proposal to fund two postdoctoral fellows indicated that it would be more desirable to develop a postdoctoral advisory board, so the Graduate School will not be going in the direction of having professional development postdoctoral liaisons.

Professor Stabile asked the number of UO postdoctoral students. Dean Berglund stated that from the current list there appears to be about 100, but that may be a low estimate.

Professor Stabile noted that the life cycle of postdoctoral students is different depending on which department they are in. Dean Berglund noted that the Graduate School already serves a diverse group of graduate students.

Dean Fisher stated that we would like to have a working definition of a postdoctoral student. For example, if someone answers "yes" to a series of questions, they may be a postdoctoral student. We would then send that information to departments to find out who fits into that category. It may also be possible to designate these people in Banner. Some postdoctoral students have their own funding.

Professor White noted that mentoring of postdoctoral students is important. In the Anthropology program, almost all have jobs. It is also a recruitment and retention tool and helps with graduation rates. If they have a job, they want to move on.

Global Studies Institute: Guest Dennis Galvan

Vice Provost for International Affairs, Dennis Galvan, distributed the following handouts:

- An organizational chart of the Office of International Affairs
- Data relating to UO international graduate students
- Data relating to UO study abroad graduate students

Vice Provost Galvan noted that an international student fee is being considered to help address staffing in light of the increased numbers of international students. Also being discussed is providing meditation and devotional spaces on campus and providing dialogue with other students regarding the cultural difference between public and private acts related to religion.
One program under consideration is Global Faculty, where a fund would be developed for a faculty member to bring another faculty member from outside the United States to the UO. This fund will finance two to three visiting faculty each year, and it is hoped it will grow from there.

Another program is a graduate level collaboration with international partners. A demand has been shown for this—particularly in Asia. While joint degrees are beyond what we can do at this time, the UO plans to start smaller with interdisciplinary joint graduate certificates.

Professor Ostmeier asked if it is possible to set up a website where people could post international engagement, or faculty from abroad could post collaborations. Vice Provost Galvan replied that the Global Studies Institute has a clearing house where people can look.

Vice Provost Galvan discussed international exchange programs and said that while the oldest programs will survive, some legal changes within the OUS could produce some questions. The Office of International Affairs is working to ensure the survival of core programs.

Professor Dewey asked how the UO can be more competitive in recruiting international students. Vice Provost Galvan responded that the Office of International Affairs is led by the academic units. If there isn't that connection, it is best done by faculty exchange. For example, for professional master's degree programs, the process would be to sit down with International Affairs and an Enrollment manager to determine where the markets are and how the UO can gain a presence there. The question for the Graduate School is how to support international graduate student recruitment.

Professor Enjuto-Rangel noted the challenge for international graduate students is often what to do financially in the summer. If funding is not available, these students could lose their visa. Vice Provost Galvan acknowledged that there is no funding available at this time and suggested developing a clearing house for employment opportunities for international graduate students who want employment in the summer months.

Announcements

Dean Fisher announced that the Request for Proposals for the Innovation in Graduate Education Awards has gone out and the focus is on Professional Development and innovative ideas on this subject.

Dean Fisher stated that the Graduate School has received $60,000 from a donor to pilot innovative graduate awards for doctoral students in the area of professional development. The topic of the award is driven by the donor.

Kyle Reynolds, Coordinator of Student Affairs for the Graduate School, reminded Council members of the Fifth Annual Graduate Student Research Forum which will be held on Friday, March 7, 2014. There will be 190 graduate student's participating in this year's Forum, with 115 graduate students participating in the poster session. Dean Berglund has been implemental in securing donations for six awards of $1,000.00 each to be given to poster session winners. There will be 14 panel sessions, and moderators are needed for these interdisciplinary panels. Mr. Reynolds encouraged Council members to attend, volunteer to judge at the poster session or moderate at the panel sessions, and spread the word to the community of the event.

Adjourn

The Council adjourned at 5:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cecilia Enjuto Rangel
Graduate Council Secretary