MINUTES
The Graduate Council
January 21, 2015
Johnson Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Barbara Altmann (ex officio); Andy Berglund (ex officio); Lara Bovilsky, Krista Chronister, Alexandre Dossin, Aniko Drlik-Muehleck, Kassy Fisher (ex officio), Erik Girvan, Victoria Herman, Sara Hodges, Joseph Lowndes, Thomas Ptak, John Russial, Mark Watson (ex officio), Frances White, Yizhao Yang, and Ben Yang

Members Absent: Bruce Blonigen (ex officio), Leonardo Garcia-Pabon, Ruth Keele (ex officio), David Riley

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Kellie Geldreich, Marcia Walker

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm. The November 19, 2014 Graduate Council minutes were approved as distributed.

New Business

Proposal for Graduate Specialization in Interior Architecture

Alison Kwok, Professor in Architecture, joined the Graduate Council to discuss the proposed specialization in Interior Architecture. Professor Kwok explained that at the UO, the Department of Architecture has approximately 230 graduate students of which 18 are enrolled in interior architecture or concurrent degrees (M.IARCH and M.ARCH). She stated that the department’s program in Interior Architecture allows for a grouping of courses to be offered as a specialization. It will be an opportunity for the larger group of Architecture students to gain exposure to such areas as finishing details, lighting, accessibility, etc. Student interest in this specialization and coursework already exists.

Kellie Geldreich, Academic Affairs Manager at the Graduate School, reminded Council members that last spring they approved two specializations from Architecture: 1. Urban Architecture and Urban Design, and 2. Housing. Ms. Geldreich stated that this is more of a formalization of an ongoing process.

Associate Professor Russial asked if this was something that students are doing currently. Professor Kwok responded that some students are doing this, but the department hopes that more students will take advantage of this specialization. Professor Kwok noted that this specialization does not complete with the concurrent degree which requires an additional year of studies.

Mark Watson, Associate Dean for Research Services, stated that this proposal appeared to be in order.

Associate Professor Bovilsky asked if the courses listed in the proposal could be taught by Architecture faculty, and Professor Kwok responded in the affirmative.

Associate Professor Lowndes moved to approve the proposal. Associate Professor Bovilsky seconded the motion. The motion to approve the proposal for the graduate specialization in Interior Architecture was approved by unanimous vote.

Graduate Student Assistance Fund Committee – Appointment of a Faculty Member

Dean Berglund explained that in accordance with the terms of the new Collective Bargaining Agreement between the UO and the GTFF, a Graduate Student Assistance Fund has been created to assist graduate students facing financial hardship relating to the care of a new child or a medical issue. Award requests cannot exceed $1,500 in the case of a new child and $1,000 in the case of medical issues. Dean Berglund noted that this is an award, not a loan.
Dean Berglund stated that the Graduate Council needs to appoint a faculty member to the Fund Advisory Committee. The Fund Advisory Committee will be comprised of the following members:

- A designee of the President;
- A faculty member appointed by the Graduate Council;
- Two representatives who are GTFs at the time of their appointments, appointed by the GTFF; and
- Two graduate student representatives who are not GTFs at the time of their election. These students are elected by the graduate student body.

Dean Berglund forwarded the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Graduate Student Assistance Fund Committee to Graduate Council members.

Associate Professor Herman asked how frequently the Fund Committee would meet. Assistant Dean Fisher responded that the Fund Committee would meet once per quarter to report to the President. Assistant Dean Fisher noted that this is a one-year appointment (calendar year), and then a whole new group would come in.

The Graduate Council unanimously appointed Mark Watson to be the faculty member who will serve on the Graduate Student Assistance Fund Committee this calendar year.

Old Business

None.

Deans Updates/Announcements

Graduate Student Research Forum Update

Dean Berglund reported that over 200 abstracts have been submitted by graduate students for the Graduate Student Research Forum. This is the highest number of submissions received in the history of the Forum. Because of the large numbers of submissions and the shortened hours of the Forum this year, Dean Berglund asked Council members for their feedback about not all graduate students being accepted. Dean Berglund noted that panelists not accepted would have the option of presenting a poster at the poster session.

Professor White stated that if applications continue to rise, it could become more prestigious to be accepted to present in a panel session. Conversely, if the purpose is to give all graduate students the experience, then all graduate students who submit should be given the opportunity to present in the panel format. Graduate Student Ptak asked if the goal should be to have more panelist sessions attended by an audience vs. the students being given the opportunity to present. Graduate Student Drlik-Muehleck reported that last year she attended a panel session where unfortunately there was only one audience member.

Graduate Student Ptak emphasized the importance of communicating about the situation with graduate students who have submitted abstracts but may not be accepted, e.g. we are overwhelmed with applications and are trying to find a solution. He stated that considering the sensitivity of the issue, it is important to try to make every effort to meet in the middle.

Dean Berglund reported that this year the Forum will be held at the Ford Alumni Center. There is enough space to accommodate participants; the concern is having a well-attended audience for the panel sessions. Associate Professor Lowndes thought it important to try to accommodate everyone.

Associate Professor Bovisky asked about the representation from colleges/departments, and Dean Berglund responded that there is a good distribution of participants from colleges/departments across the campus.
Assistant Professor Ben Yang suggested increasing audience traffic by getting undergraduate students involved in the Forum. Dean Berglund responded that the Graduate School Advisory Board is working on this issue. Professor Hodges suggested giving undergraduate students extra credit if they attend.

Dean Berglund summarized by stating that Graduate Council members believe that if possible, all applicants should be allowed to participate in the Graduate Student Research Forum.

Upcoming Awards

Assistant Dean Fisher reported that submission deadlines are approaching for awards administered by the Graduate School. She noted that most of the awards have deadlines in January and February. Graduate Council Committee members considering these awards will receive application materials soon thereafter. Brandy Teel, Engagement and Opportunities Manager, will be sending graduate students a reminder of upcoming awards deadlines in the Graduate School's newsletter, GradPost.

Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) Implementation Update

Assistant Dean Fisher stated that implementation of the CBA has begun. Graduate Teaching Fellows will see the retroactive salary increases in their January pay check. There are changes to the Summer Sandwich program, and as discussed earlier, a Graduate Student Assistance Fund has been created.

Adjourn

The Council adjourned at 4:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances White
Graduate Council Secretary