MINUTES
The Graduate Council
January 10, 2018
Graduate School Student Lounge, 111 Susan Campbell Hall

Members Present:  Lara Bovilsky, Shanka Chakraborty, Stephen Frost, Erik Girvan, Sara Hodges (ex officio), Cameron Kay, Andy Karduna (ex officio), Alison Kwok, Seth Lewis, Jana Prikryl (ex officio), Nicholas Proudfoot, Aleesa Schlientz, Leslie Straka, Hailan Wang, Angie Whalen

Members Absent:  Cecilia Enjuto, Rangel Phil Scher (ex officio), and, Hong Yuan

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Lisa Howard, Jered Nagel, Hannah Schneider-Lynch

The meeting was called to order at 3:30pm. The November 2017 minutes were approved as distributed.

Interim Dean Hodges introduced new Graduate School staff: Jered Nagel, Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs and Hannah Schneider-Lynch, Admissions and Recruitment Manager.

Associate Professor Bovilsky commented on the Graduate School Dean search and said if people have thoughts about a new Dean, they can e-mail her and she will pass on to the Committee Chair, Dean Christoph Lindner. Associate Professor Bovilsky will send out an e-mail with date ranges for campus visits by Graduate School Dean candidates and encouraged people to be involved in the visit. Associate Dean Straka mentioned that she was the only Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) to attend the meeting with the DGS’ and the search firm. Associate Professor Bovilsky will let Dean Lindner know that the search firm needs DGS feedback.

Old Business

None

New Business

Applied Information Management (AIM) Program

Interim Dean Hodges explained the AIM program closure requirements. Article 25 of the CBA requires faculty to be consulted prior to closing a program, and in this case, after consultation with Senate Leadership, it was decided that the Graduate Council faculty will serve as the consulting faculty. Interim Dean Hodges noted that a discussion but no motion or voting was required. She explained that the AIM program is the only entirely on-line program at the University of Oregon. The program started 30 years ago and has a focus on mid-career professionals. The program began with faculty from the Lundquist College of Business and then moved to Academic Extension. Since Academic Extension cannot grant degrees, the Graduate School currently grants the degrees.

Interim Dean Hodges further explained that the AIM program underwent an Academic Program Review last year and while the review was positive, some problems were identified. She noted that problems include the lack of an academic home, and no University of Oregon tenure related faculty in the program. Interim Dean Hodges noted that possible academic homes were explored with Computer and Information Science (CIS) and the Lundquist College of Business (LCB), but neither department agreed to incorporate the AIM program. CIS’s departmental focus is quite different from AIM’s, and LCB noted many issues including declining enrollment numbers, LCB faculty expense, a lack of enthusiasm in the department about incorporating AIM, and other strategic priorities of LCB.
Interim Dean Hodges noted the sun-setting rules require students to be given seven years from their beginning date to finish. She discussed possible ways the Graduate School could work to support students who would be affected. She commented that no other departments would be affected.

Associate Dean Karduna stated that people could share concerns in the meeting or e-mail him later.

Senior Instructor Prikryl asked if it was still important to be discrete about the possible closing of the program. Interim Dean Sara Hodges answered that the faculty and director know, but she was not sure if students are yet aware the program may be closed.

Associate Dean Karduna asked Graduate Council members to send any other feedback, questions or concerns to Interim Dean Hodges.

**Modification to UOTeach Program**

Associate Dean Karduna stated that material on modifications to the UOTeach Program were previously sent to Graduate Council members. He noted that within the College of Education, the vote was almost unanimous to approve the changes. Clinical Associate Professor Whalen commented she thought that UOTeach faculty vote was unanimous, but there may have been concerns in other COE areas.

Associate Professor Bovilsky inquired if the number of credits translates to taking a longer period of time with other universities. Clinical Associate Professor Whalen explained that state licensure requirements have dramatically changed and UOTeach is trying to remain competitive with other programs.

Associate Professor Bovilsky moved to approve the modification to the UOTeach program. Associate Professor Frost seconded the motion. With one abstention (by a Council member who arrived late and missed the discussion) the Graduate Council voted to approve the UOTeach modification.

**Graduate Student Funding**

Associate Dean Karduna provided a handout with categories of ways graduate students are funded. He explained that the Graduate School may be playing a larger role in Graduate Employee (GE) allocation in the future with the changes in how GEs will be allocated. He noted that schools/colleges will be given an allocation of GEs and the schools/colleges will be able to decide how to use them. It is possible that not all GEs allocated will be used for teaching.

Professor Wang commented that Physics must turn down fellowships sometimes because they cannot be mixed with GEs.

Associate Professor Bovilsky commented that the difference in insurance coverage for First Year Fellows and Raymund First Year Fellows could possibly present a problem for underrepresented minorities and that research GEs with no teaching may be a good replacement for First Year Fellowships.

Associate Dean Karduna noted that the Graduate School does not currently have GE allocations.

Associate Professor Frost asked if there were approximate numbers of GEs in each category. Associate Dean Karduna answered that he is working on getting that data.

Associate Dean Karduna explained he was trying to categorize the different types of funding and these categories do not take into account summer.

Assistant Professor Girvan asked about adding unit funded fellowships to the categories.
Associate Professor Lewis asked if the Council should check in with their departments about any other ways graduate students are funded. Associate Professor Frost mentioned that unit budget managers may be a good source of information.

**Graduate Students on Admissions Committees Policy**

Associate Dean Karduna stated that a Biology faculty member raised two concerns about the recently passed guidelines about graduate students reviewing graduate applications – (1) No requirement of disclosure to prospective students that their applications may be seen by current graduate students, and (2) Implications for recruiting diverse students. He asked the members if there were any concerns about these two questions.

Assistant Professor Erik Girvan commented that he was not sure what practical effect required disclosing would have.

Doctoral Student Schlientz commented that she does not have an expectation of privacy and feels the sensitive information notice is fairly well covered. Master’s Student Kay noted that if he applies for a doctoral program in his department, it would be people he knows reviewing his material.

After further discussion, Associate Professor Bovilsky called for a straw poll about discussing the possibility of drafting disclosure language and discussing. One member thought it would be a good idea while the remaining members voted no.

Interim Dean Hodges commented that the issue could be revisited at any time.

**Announcements**

Interim Dean Hodges noted that the Council may be presented with an increased number of program items in the future.

The Council adjourned at 5:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

______________________________
Shanka Chakraborty
Graduate Council Secretary