

Minutes of **University Graduate Council**
February 3, 2012

Present: Tim McDermott (AG), Charles Erickson (BUS) William Ruff (EHHD), CHAIR Warren Jones (ENGR), Carl Fox (Grad School), Jane Scharff (NURS), Chris Allen (COE STUDENT), Yves Idzerda (Science).

Also attending were Graduate School staff Kaylee Ranck and Donna Negaard.

Meeting commenced at 12:17 pm in 114 Sherrick.

Introductions

- Chris Allen sitting in for Kathryn Plymesser as Graduate Student rep.
- UGC members and Grad School staff introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes for October 27, 2011 – moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

Open Campus Forum

- As a rep of the COE PhD Oversight Board, Warren Jones asked why the Meritorious Graduate Fellowship Program is only available for new GTA students. COE does not run a significant fraction of their PhD and Masters program as GTA support, and hence does not receive the benefit of the funding.
- Discussion followed among the members and resulted in Carl Fox offering to pass along to the UGC recommendations of the Awards Committee of the University Research Council..
Recommendations included:
 - Health insurance coverage for FT GTA's
 - Pilot study to purchase names from GRE list
 - Award/stipend/bonus for new doctoral students
 - Doctoral completion fellowships
 - Awards program for outstanding doctoral students
 - Training/travel professional development support for graduate students
 - Support for recruiting new graduate students
 - Support for campus visits by prospective graduate students
- Further action was tabled until Carl can meet with Tom McCoy, Chair of the Research Council to further discuss the award.

UGC Committee Reports

None

Vet App Fee Waiver/ Kaylee Ranck

- Effective spring 2012 The Graduate School is waiving the application fee for Veterans. DD214 discharge is needed to be eligible. We have 7 to date for Spring 2012. Estimate a maximum of 50 Veteran students within the next year.
- Discussion followed on where the the application fees goes. \$30 goes to a general university fund and the other \$30 goes to The Graduate School for app processing. Of the \$30 that goes to the Graduate School, approximately \$10 goes to the app vendor. The Graduate School averages 2500 apps a year for the entire campus.

College Net/ Kaylee Ranck

- Briefed the council on College Net (CN), an electronic app/letter/database system. UM, Billings MSU, and MT Tech currently use it. MSU-N has a homegrown system.
- CN would allow students to do everything online and nothing would be submitted as hardcopy with the exception of official transcripts. Students would also receive notifications on the status of their application automatically by logging into the CN system.
- A statewide contract is being considered in order to get the most advanced version for a lower price.

MUGS/ Carl Fox

- Fall 2011 meeting included UM, MT Tech, MSU Northern,, MSU Billings and MSU Bozeman and took place in Havre, MT.
- Agreement made for accepted students at one campus to easily take a course at a sister campus without submitting a new application. The program the student is accepted to, will be the program they receive their degree from.
- Working on collaborative recruiting and brochure; encouraging faculty at smaller institutions to participate in larger committees; collaborative graduate programs.
- Planning a spring retreat.

Application Numbers/Kaylee Ranck

- The Graduate School currently has received 700 applications in 2012 thus far. Receive approximately 25 applications a day, and averages 2500 apps a year for the entire campus.

Recruitment Council/Kaylee Ranck

- Reported that the council will be comprised of dept heads and nominations. Total of 30 members. Will meet two times a semester.
- Focus is to have a collaborative effort and streamline processes.
- Do we have more grad students in training then there are jobs for? This is perhaps only looking at professoriate positions and not jobs outside of academia. Data cannot project what jobs will be available in 4-5 years, some of those jobs don't exist yet.
- Carl Fox noted that we need to look at professional development for grads to prepare them for jobs outside of academia.

FT Definition/Donna Negaard

- Outlined that FT is equal to 9 credits.
- A TA or RA taking 6 credits does not make them a FT student
- Should it be changed to read that FT is equal to 6 credits plus full time TA or RA positions?
- Discussion on GTA vs. GRA vs. Instructor. Description and role need to be defined
- Donna will put together verbiage and the council will vote later

AGEP Update/ Carl Fox

- Alliance for Graduate Education Professorate; 5 university collaborative, funded through National Science Foundation through a planning grant
- Lead institution is WA state, other partners are OR, WA, ID and UM
- Idea is to help unrepresented minority students earn STEM doctorates; loosened the parameters to also include masters and do not have to have academic institutions as their ultimate employment goal
- New focus is Hispanics: OR, WA and ID; American Indians: two MT universities

- MSU and UM have submitted a joint proposal to Sloan Foundation that will help provide supplemental stipends for any American Indian student in doctoral STEM discipline
- Have met with Tribal College colleagues, yet to meet with Chief Dull Knife and Blackfeet; RFP is not yet out due to budget issues
- Initial cohort would include Tribal College faculty as many have masters, some only baccalaureates
- This would help them to stand out in their community; one challenge is that they do not have the resources to leave their community; some colleges may be concerned that if their faculty earn a PhD, they may not stay at the tribal college and not want them to earn PhD as they are afraid they will leave

Multiple Degree Apps and Acceptances/Kaylee Ranck

- Many students ask if they can apply to more than one degree program at a time, and the answer is yes, but we do not have the mechanism to do this conveniently for the student; a lot of follow up with sharing files between the multiple depts.; if we are to go with a new vendor this might become a non issue
- Acceptance is the issue; i.e. college teaching certificate in addition to a PhD or MS (physics) or LRES in addition to certificate in Applied Statistics. This can be put into the system and requires two programs of study, two applications for advanced degree, housed in two different depts.
- What is occurring more and more is students who want two degrees, and to work on them simultaneously, i.e. CHE and CHEM, MPA and LRES
- Logistically this is something we can do administratively, but are there concerns with faculty and dept about funding? For instance, if a dept. pays for a full semester out of a grant and the student is taking classes for that dept in addition to classes for a dept without; who is paying the stipend; who is doing the work?
- Credits cannot overlap; can electives overlap? MEd = 30 cr, EdD = 30 cr so would need to show 60 credits total. But why not just 45 for both if the electives can overlap?
- UG allows students to earn 2 BAs with the addition of 30 cr on top of 120 cr verses requiring them to take an additional 120 cr for the second BA.
- Conversation to continue given the increasing number of instances and collaboration with the disciplines; proposal to come
- Another item to consider are graduate minors

Invitation will be coming from Donna Negaard for WAGS, Fort Collins in March

Meeting adjourned at 2:08pm.

Amanda Brown, Secretary
The Graduate School