

# University Graduate Council Minutes

Tuesday September 15, 2015

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Sherrick 114

## **Council in Attendance:**

Alan Dyer, *Chair* (Agriculture)

Marc Giullian (Business)

Timothy LeCain (Letters)

Christopher Livingston (Architecture)

Ahmed Al-Kaisy (Engineering)

John Borkowski, *Vice Chair* (Sciences)

Ann Ewbank (Education)

John Seifert (Health & Human Development)

Michael Babcock (Faculty Senate)

Jean Shreffler-Grant (Nursing)

Karlene Hoo (The Graduate School)

## **Also in Attendance:**

Amanda Brown (The Graduate School)

Lauren Cerretti (The Graduate School)

## **Absent:**

## **Meeting started at 1:05 p.m.**

### **September 1, 2015 minutes**

- Chair Dyer called for a motion to approve after a brief discussion. Babcock motioned, Livingston second.
  - Unanimous approval

## **Announcements**

- Dean Hoo: asked Faculty Senate member Babcock to keep UGC informed of pertinent issues being discussed in Faculty Senate
- Chair Dyer: asked for clarification on meritorious and presidential fellowships
  - Awards will be available again in October 2015
  - Once award is announced, it is open until all funds are awarded. Awards based on strength of recommendation and department proposal.
  - Travel awards still offered and split into STEM and non-STEM awards, given to bring prospective students to visit MSU Bozeman campus.
    - Current students who want to travel to approved conferences can submit a request to the GS. The request must be accompanied with a recommendation from department/college and PI. The GS attempts to match (not necessarily 1:1) financial support from the department/college and PI.
  - PhD Enhancement awards: clarification of criteria for evaluation.
  - Chair Dyer asks for information on fellowships under the GS control on agenda for the next meeting.

## **Old Business**

- Policy Amendment Proposal: Who Can Chair Graduate Committees (Chair Dyer)
  - Tabled by Chair Dyer until Dean Hoo can report back from Legal Services
- Graduate Course Numbering Guidelines, handout from 9/1/15 meeting, discussion (Chair Dyer)
  - Numbering can affect external impression of program
  - Seeking consistency in course numbering for graduate courses
  - Not requesting that all programs renumber
  - Q: Is common course numbering also for graduate courses across MUS system?

- Yes, since 2011
  - What are implications for U of Montana if MSU changes graduate course numbering system?
  - Graduate students do not often transfer courses, so this may be a negligible issue
- 6xx numbering could discourage undergrads from taking courses, which is significant for some programs that rely on undergrad enrollment in a graduate course to keep the course as an offering (enrollment minimums).
- Q: What is procedure for changing course numbering?
  - Dr. Hoo will ask Associate Provost Ron Larsen
  - Curriculum and Programs Committee in Faculty Senate might have answers, too.
- Q: is dual numbering 500/600 possible?
- New course numbering would be guideline, not a policy.
- Motion Babcock to send to Faculty Senate, second Borkowski; unanimous pass to send guidelines to Faculty Senate for review.
  - Faculty Senate member Babcock will inform Faculty Senate for feedback.
- Graduate Representative Policy
  - Last meeting (9/1/15), Hoo recommended eliminating graduate representative from policy due to faculty disinterest/difficulties with scheduling and student difficulties/anxieties with scheduling.
  - No workload equation at MSU; no clear “credit” for service.
  - U of Wisconsin is an example of school without graduate representative
  - Q: Why require grad rep for doctoral and not masters students?
    - More in-depth study, longer career at MSU, more possibilities for issues along the way for doctoral students.
  - Chair Dyer, his Department Head (Plant Sciences) and Dean of Agriculture, all support grad rep policy and would like to find a way to fix issues and work through problems with system.
  - Faculty Senate member Babcock suggests procedure for student to file grievance with event, rather than having grad rep there. Agrees stress for student is high. Is there another model at other schools MSU could follow?
  - Q: Is grad rep a common practice? Varies with the institution.
  - New faculty may feel uncomfortable with reporting on committees of seasoned MSU faculty. Faculty in general may feel this way.
  - Chair Dyer suggests send issue to Policy & Procedures sub-committee for review; sub-committee chair Borkowski will lead charge.

**Member Babcock moved to adjourn, Livingston Second, unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.**