Minutes of University Graduate Council  
March 10, 2009

Present: Tim McDermott (AG), Rollin Beamish (A & A), Bonita Peterson (BUS), William Ruff (EHHD), Robert Maher (ENGR), Carl Fox (DGE), Robert Bennett (L&S-Letters), CHAIR Yves Idzerda (L&S-Science), Rita Cheek (NURS), David Keto (STUDENT).

Also attending were MaryKay West (DGE), Jen Jencso (DGE), and Donna Negaard (DGE).

Meeting commenced at 9:05 a.m. in 114 Sherrick.

Approval of Minutes

• For Nov. 6, 2008 – moved, seconded and unanimously approved.
• For Feb. 17, 2009 – moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

Open Campus Forum

• No one came forward.

Welcome

• The new Student Representative, David Keto, was welcomed by all members. He will be replacing Megan Selheim.

UGC Committee Reports

• No reports were given.

DGE Staff Reports

• DGE Open House
  a) Tomorrow – to display 15 design submissions for new grad T shirt (will be for promotion only).

• Research Expo
  a) To be held Tuesday, April 14
  b) Abstracts from grad students were due yesterday
  c) $10,000 award for college with highest percent of grads who participate.

• Phone-a-thon
  a) Contacting MSU grad alumni – like last year.

• Recruiting Weekend
  a) To help put MSU on “radar” for students across nation
  b) Face to face visits are very valuable
  c) Ten departments in three colleges participated.
Update on Tuition Waivers and Policy Statement -- Carl

a) Probably change name of “Grad Service Assistant”
b) For AY 10, tuition waivers in dollars will be allocated to colleges in a manner similar to AY 08. Tuition waivers will not be tied to graduate assistantships.
c) DGE and OPA are developing a data base to track GTA and GRA appointments
d) A Graduate Tuition Task Force is working on the development of a new policy for AY 11.

Probation / Suspension Rules for GTAs and GRAs (continued) -- Donna

a) Involves up to a dozen students per semester
b) DGE needs guidance—does DGE give student a “grace” semester for first semester on probation? (especially if it is first semester in grad school); should a student be dismissed if they do not raise their GPA during the “grace” semester
c) Dismissal rules must be included on Agreement form student signs
d) Donna will draft language for UGC review.

Transfer Credit Policy -- Donna

a) No motion was made at last meeting; Donna needs one to clarify DGE policy
b) Rob motioned and Tim seconded that the definition of transfer credits be revised to include credits from outside institutions, MSU non-degree, and MSU Reserved credits. Transfer credits will only be accepted to meet degree requirements if a grade of B or better has been achieved. Approved by unanimous vote.

Minimum Wage for GTAs and GRAs – Donna

a) Current MSU minimum stipend of $8.00 per hour was set when federal minimum wage was $5.15 (federal minimum will become $7.25 in July 2009)
b) DGE is suggesting that we raise the minimum stipend
c) Recommendation of the UGC is to return to this issue when the economy improves.

Comprehensive Exams – Donna

a) MSU departments have little comp exam information on their websites
b) DGE is contacting departments to have them clarify their definition of “comp exams”
c) DGE is planning a review of the comprehensive exam requirements for each degree program.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50.

Next meeting is Tuesday, March 24

MaryKay West, Secretary