University Graduate Council Minutes

Wednesday, April 1, 2015  1:00 – 3:00 p.m.  Sherrick 103

Council in Attendance:
Alan Dyer, Chair (Agriculture)  John Borkowski, Vice Chair (Sciences)
Melissa Ragain (Arts)  Theodore Lipfert (Arts)
Anne Christensen (Business)  Jean Shreffler-Grant (Nursing)
W. Randall Babbitt (Faculty Senate)  Timothy LeCain (Letters)
Ahmed Al-Kaisy (Engineering)  Arthur Bangert (Education)
Karlene Hoo (The Graduate School)

Also in Attendance:
Amanda Brown (The Graduate School)  Lauren Cerretti (The Graduate School)
Matt Rognlie (IT Director, Agriculture)

Absent:
Mary Miles (Health & Human Development)  Geraldine Govaerts (International Programs)

• Meeting started at 1:05 p.m.

• March 18, 2015 minutes
  o Chair Dyer called for motion to approve UGC minutes from last meeting
    ▪ Council member Babbitt motioned, council member Lipfert second
    ▪ Unanimous approval

• Announcements
  o Videoconferencing Technology Requests (Matt Rognlie)
    ▪ College of Agriculture & College of Nursing have 95% of videoconferencing technology on campus
    ▪ Students requesting use of these services are not giving enough lead time
    ▪ Colleges are requesting a 2-4 week notice from students for these services
    ▪ Make the term “videoconference” more ambiguous
      ▪ Definition is very specific and means something to IT personnel setting it up for student exams/defenses; change to “two-way audio + video connection”?
    ▪ Policy & Procedures Committee will work with Rognlie to revise/add language

• Old Business
  o Change in Grading Method for 590/690 Credits (discussion)
    ▪ Council member Lipfert: Film Department feels ambivalent; there is no reason to introduce a new grading method (i.e.: traditional grading)
    ▪ Council member Borkowski: Statistics Department likes the “N” grade, but is not supportive of traditional grades
    ▪ Motion: Chair Dyer called for motion to change to P/N/F, but “N” is optional
      ▪ Council member Babbitt motioned, council member Ragain second
      ▪ Unanimous approval
- **Motion**: Chair Dyer called for motion to set an effective date for the fall semester of 2015
  - Council member Babbitt motioned, council member Christensen second
  - Unanimous approval

- **Signature Page for Thesis/Dissertation (discussion)**
  - Council member Bangert feels strongly that the signature page should return; Chair Dyer agrees
    - The Graduate School reminded council that the signature page will not be uploaded to UMI/ProQuest due to the dangers of fraud. It is not a national trend to upload the signature page.
    - Discussion tabled.

- **New Business**
  - **PhD Enhancement Award Ranking Report**
    - Four (4) reviews of seven (7) proposals for awards
      - Note some members of council had conflict of interest and were recused from participating in the review. They however were present for the results.
      - Chemical & Biological Engineering had the best proposals and received the highest scores consistently across reviews, followed by Mechanical Engineering
    - **Motion**: Chair Dyer called for motion to recommend to the Grad School to fund those proposals that were in the highly recommend and recommend categories.
      - Council member Ragain motioned, council member LeCain second
      - Unanimous approval
      - Dean Hoo stated that she could request moving un-awarded funds to other funding opportunities under the control of the Grad School.
    - **Motion**: Chair Dyer called for a motion to distribute only ten (10) awards IF two (2) can be redistributed to other funding opportunities
      - Council member Christensen motioned, council member Ragain second
      - Unanimous approval

  - Suggestion from the College of Arts: Fund MFA (terminal degree) students?
  - Rubric should be rewritten to award points for diversity
  - Off-topic discussion: Presidential & Meritorious awards need restructuring to meet the needs of all departments, especially deadlines
    - Policy & Procedures Committee will review and revise

- **Committee Reports**
  - **Policy and Procedures Committee**
    - GTA Term Performance Evaluation Form
      - Revisions to “Teaching category”, “Teaching functions”, and “Supplemental comments” added
    - **Motion**: Chair Dyer called for a motion to post to The Graduate School website for campus feedback
      - Council member Christensen motioned, council member LeCain second
      - Unanimous approval
    - GRA Term Performance Evaluation Form
• Add applicable categories from the GTA Evaluation form
• Form is required for College of Business graduate students
• Policy & Procedures Committee will revise with comments from council and will post to Knox for review, but will not be shared with the campus at large
  ▪ Graduate Representative/Videoconferencing Policy Revisions
    • Second revised versions were sent to committee for review and recommendations
    • Reminder: Students always can appeal a policy with The Graduate School
    • **Motion:** Chair Dyer called for a motion to have these policies voted on via email
      o Council member Lipfert motioned, council member Borkowski second
      o Unanimous approval

  o **Governance Committee**
    ▪ Revised By-Laws: Faculty Senate Member as Voting Member
      • A decision is needed from council
      • Chair Dyer advises council to have a discussion
      • Dean Hoo does not want a vote because UGC is her advising body; it is important she remain a non-voting ex-officio member
      • Suggestion: Governance Committee should form a list of pros/cons to present to council
      • Faculty Senate member voting can create imbalance and an impression that UGC is not independent of Faculty Senate

• **Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.**