# **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	John Borkowski, Vice Chair (Sciences)	
Melissa Ragain (Arts)	Theodore Lipfert (Ar	Theodore Lipfert (Arts)	
Anne Christensen (Business)	Jean Shreffler-Grant	Jean Shreffler-Grant (Nursing)	
W. Randall Babbitt (Faculty Senate)	Timothy LeCain (Lett	Timothy LeCain (Letters)	
Ahmed Al-Kaisy (Engineering)	Arthur Bangert (Edu	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)

#### • <u>Meeting started at 1:05 p.m.</u>

#### • <u>March 18, 2015 minutes</u>

- o Chair Dyer called for motion to approve UGC minutes from last meeting
  - Council member Babbitt motioned, council member Lipfert second
  - Unanimous approval

# <u>Announcements</u>

- 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
- <u>Signature Page for Thesis/Dissertation (discussion)</u>
  - 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.

# <u>New Business</u>

- o <u>PhD Enhancement Award Ranking Report</u>
  - 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 <u>IF</u> two (2) can be redistributed to other funding opportunities
    - Council member Christensen motioned, council member Ragain second
    - Unanimous approval
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- 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

# <u>Committee Reports</u>

- 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
      - o Council member Christensen motioned, council member LeCain second
      - o 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 <u>Governance Committee</u>
  - 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.