UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL

Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2015         1:00 – 2:00 p.m.   Sherrick 114

Council in Attendance:
Alan Dyer, Chair (Agriculture)    John Borkowski, Vice-Chair (Sciences)
Marc Giullian (Business)        John Seifert (Health & Human Development)
Christopher Livingston (Architecture)  Michael Babcock (Faculty Senate)
Ahmed Al-Kaisy (Engineering)     Timothy LeCain (Letters)
Ann Ewbank (Education)         Karlene Hoo (The Graduate School)

Also in Attendance:
Amanda Brown (The Graduate School)
Lauren Cerretti (The Graduate School)

Absent:
Jean Shreffler-Grant (Nursing)

Meeting started at 1:04 p.m.

Oct 13, 2015 minutes
• Chair Dyer called for motion to approve, Babcock motioned, Livingston second, unanimous approval.

Announcements
• Updates on Faculty Senate issues (Babcock)

Old Business
• Funding and fellowship opportunities
  o Are the funding source restrictions locked? Were they always for PhD and STEM, only?
  o Meritorious and Presidential: to attract new graduate students
    ▪ Meritorious ($5k): majority of awards will go to STEM PhD students
    ▪ Presidential ($1k): majority of awards will go to STEM PhD students
  o PhD Enhancement: must be an existing PhD student
  o Research grants: both master’s and PhD in any discipline
  o Travel grants: used to recruit new students in master’s or PhD in any field or for current students to travel to professional conferences to present research findings
  o Ad-hoc committee (Seifert (added), LeCain, Borkowski, & Al-Kaisy) to make proposal to Graduate School for timing of award allocation. Committee to have proposal ready by next meeting (Nov 10).

New Business
• Interdisciplinary Doctoral degree (Hoo)
  o Dean Hoo (hand-out) proposal draft to authorize the creation of a new program: Customized Interdisciplinary Program (CIP) or Individualized Interdisciplinary Program (IIP).
Similar programs exist at Univ. of Montana and other universities in the US & Canada.
Not meant to have students apply for this degree, but it is possible with a carefully articulated plan; quality is very important
May be used to allow graduate students with programmatic concerns to finish
Students would have to meet more rigorous requirements: 3.5 GPA and committee consisting of three faculty plus Dean of Graduate School
Students would have to apply and be approved by UGC
Department and faculty would still provide all resources
National Science Foundation (NSF) very supportive of cross-disciplinary education
Request UGC support to continue to develop proposal and present to Board of Regents.

Comments:
Interest could be bigger due to student interest in inter- and multi-disciplinary education
Regulation should be strong; agree quality is very important
Supportive of idea
NSF support is strong indicator
Should Grad School write two different proposals?
Should not be used as a stop-out degree option

- Interdisciplinary Master's of Science (Hoo)
  - Starting with PhD and will present master’s proposal to BOR at later date

Committee Reports

- Policy and Procedures Committee

- Curriculum Committee

- Governance Committee
  - Request by Dean Hoo to revisit UGC by-laws vote regarding role of Faculty Senate member; vote
    - Chair Dyer calls for comments on the vote & issue
    - Q: was anything discussed last meeting that absent members missed?
    - A: minutes reflect any discussion
    - Chair Dyer calls for secret ballot and asks Dean Hoo and Faculty Senate member Babcock to exit room for vote
    - Chair Dyer reads voting slips to council and explains options
    - Council vote results: 3 reject, 6 approve. Faculty Senate ex-officio member is relieved of voting rights.
  - Next vote: to remove voting rights from ex-officio member Graduate School Dean. Giullian moves, Al-Kaisy second.
    - Vote results: unanimous approval, Shreffler-Grant will vote via email.
  - Review UGC by-laws regarding role of graduate student member; discussion

Chair Dyer adjourned at 2:01pm.