UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES

Wednesday, March 30, 2016         2:00 – 3:00 p.m.   Linfield 214

Council in Attendance:
Ahmed Al-Kaisy (Engineering)        Mary Miles (Health & Human Development)
Ann Ewbank (Education)              Michael Babcock (Faculty Senate)
John Borkowski (Sciences)           Tim LeCain (Letters)
Jean Shreffler-Grant (Nursing)      Karlene Hoo (The Graduate School)
Christopher Livingston (Architecture) Marc Giullian (Business)
Fabian Menalled (Agriculture)

Also in Attendance:
Amanda Brown (The Graduate School)
Kelly Beiswanger (Office of Research Compliance)
Lauren Cerretti (The Graduate School)
Megan Prettyman (Office of International Programs)

Absent:

Meeting started at 2:02 pm

March 2, 2016 minutes
• Livingston moves, Guillian second, unanimous pass.

Announcements
• Update from Faculty Senate (Babcock)
  o Optional Graduate Representative policy passed by Faculty Senate on 3/9
  o IIP (Individual Interdisciplinary PhD) passed by Faculty Senate on 3/23
  o Withdrawing Graduation Application—not yet taken to Faculty Senate. Dr. Babcock will discuss with Dean Hoo.
• Welcome to Megan Prettyman from Office International Programs and Kelly Beiswanger from the Office of Research Compliance
• Update on Coffee Talk held by GS 3/3/16
  o Shared new policies approved by UGC
  o Dates/deadlines reminders
  o Admissions discussed upcoming CollegeNET seminar
• PhD Enhancement Funds
  o Submission closed on 3/2/16
  o Five proposals were submitted
  o UGC will review proposals except for UGC members whose departments or related departments have applied; committee will give funding recommendations to the Dean of The Graduate School at the next UGC meeting on 4/13/16.
  o PhD GRA Enhancement Fund and Dissertation Year Award will open in fall 2016
Old Business
- IIP proposal will be presented to Deans Council 4/12
- Optional graduate representative policy will be presented to Deans Council 4/12

New Business
- **Update on Task Force**
  - Dean Hoo gave an update on the Admissions/Retention/Recruitment task force
    - Survey for departments under construction with questions regarding:
      - Admissions
      - Recruitment
      - Progress toward degree
      - Departmental practices concerning their current graduate programs
  - Babcock, Workload task force update:
    - Increasing number of PhD students a factor in discussions

- **Conflict of Interest** (Kelly Beiswanger, compliance manager in Office of Research Compliance)
  - Use of graduate students and conflict of interest when employed by a company in which an MSU faculty has an interest
  - Handout of notes from meeting of Office of the Provost, The Graduate School, and the Office of Research Compliance
  - Defines “faculty interest”
  - Management plan when there is the appearance of a conflict of interest
    - The Provost and the Dean of Graduate School will review
  - Common practice at universities to set very clear separations between the university and companies
  - Q: Would UGC want to consider putting together a policy? Is it necessary?
    - Otherwise work through Office of Research Compliance
    - If the frequency of such conflicts is high, the creating a policy is reasonable (especially if the instances have similarities)
      - If each case is unique then creating a policy may be ineffectual
    - Data would be helpful
    - Office of Research Compliance can create a question on the annual conflict of interest report for September 2016 and could then share data with UGC
    - In interim, Provost and Dean of GS will continue to review each case
  - Communication and awareness are current goals
  - Intellectual Property (IP) concerns, ownership confusion could result

Committee Reports
- Policy and Procedures Committee
- Curriculum Committee
- Governance Committee

Chair LeCain adjourned at 2:57 pm

Next scheduled meeting – April 13, 2016