UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES

Wednesday, April 13, 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)     Megan Prettyman (International Programs)
Lauren Cerretti (The Graduate School)

Absent:

Meeting started at 2:04 pm

March 30, 2016 minutes
• Livingston moves, Ewbank second, unanimous pass.

Announcements
• Update from Faculty Senate (Babcock)
  o Franke Wilmer from Political Science is chair elect for next year and will attend UGC in 2016/17.
  o Withdrawing Graduation Application—have not reviewed yet
• Update on Admissions/Retention Task Force (Hoo)
  o Survey sent to department heads and results analyzed
  o 32 of 33 departments responded
  o MSU is second to last in the number of PhD students graduated compared to peer institutions
  o 31% of departments offer incentive to advise graduate students
  o 78% of PhD students admitted come—high rate compared to peers
  o MSU grad student stipends near mean in OSU database (only 7 peers in database); overall within 96% of overall mean. Six departments below an “80% mean”
  o Peer institutions offer “packages”—tuition remission, stipends, health benefits—state universities almost never cover university fees
  o Many definitions of “full time graduate student”: 6 credits for loan deferment, 12 according to OCHE. These definitions affect how tuition remission is perceived and processed.
  o On average, the ratio of PhD to Tenure/Tenure-track faculty is 1.5:1. Not all Tenure/Tenure-track faculty in a given department conduct research (some strictly teach, others are extension faculty, and so forth).
Personal recruitment and network were the most successful practice for recruitment.

Old Business
- Optional Grad Rep policy
  - Revisions from Faculty Senate on optional policy (handout)
  - Faculty Senate approved revisions on 3/9/16
- IIP proposal reviewed by Deans Council
  - Opinion split
  - Some departments felt this proposal would hinder development of PhD programs in their own departments
  - Felt funding was not clearly addressed among the participating departments.
  - Felt that The Graduate School should instead invest in current graduate programs
  - American studies was pointed out as an interdisciplinary degree program that was underfunded. It has a narrower focus than the proposed IIP.
  - Emphasized that only doctoral granting departments should “house” the IIP student and be the committee chair on the doctoral committee
  - IIP appears to be a threatening proposal; perhaps now is not the time to propose the IIP even though there is support for it (see FS vote)
  - Dean Hoo asks UGC to think on the issue and at next meeting vote to table (or not) the proposal.
  - Chair LeCain asks UGC to take another look at proposal for a discussion at 4/27 meeting.

New Business
- PhD Enhancement Funds
  - Recommendations and discussion regarding merit and quality of proposals
  - Dean Hoo asks council to send all their comments to her directly via email
  - Q: does UGC want to eliminate this program? Not a large amount of proposals; few quality proposals received.
  - Chair LeCain suggests reviewing evaluation criteria and the call for proposals.
  - Suggestion: could a person from a successful department visit with other departments to spread info about benefit?
  - Q: should we share info with grad students? Could create pressure within departments to apply.
- Transfer of credits posted to a Certificate from another institution
  - Reviewed question
  - Will discuss at next meeting

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

Chair LeCain adjourned at 2:57 pm

Next scheduled meeting – April 27, 2016