UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES

Tuesday Oct 17, 2017          2 – 3 p.m.          Wilson 2-257

Council in Attendance:
John Borkowski (Sciences)     Jean Shreffler-Grant (Nursing)
Ahmed Al-Kaisy (Engineering)   Kathryn Bills (Student Representative)
James Becker (Health & Human Development) Michael Babcock (Faculty Senate)
Christopher Livingston (Architecture) Tena Versland (Education)
Robert Rydell (Letters)       Marc Giullian (Business)
Karlene Hoo (The Graduate School)

Also in Attendance:
Lauren Cerretti (Graduate School)
Megan Prettyman (International Programs)

Absent:
Dennis Aig (Arts)
Fabian Menalled (Agriculture)

Meeting started at 2:02 pm

September 26, 2017 minutes
• Giullian Moves, Al-Kaisy second, unanimous approval

Announcements
• Update: Faculty Senate (Babcock)
  o Starting conversation regarding workload policy, which will include language about advising/mentoring graduate students—still in development phase
    ▪ FS was encouraged to have policy where units will create own workload plans
    ▪ Currently in JAGS (joint academic governance steering committee), very preliminary
    ▪ Comment: Engineering departments already take graduate student advising into account when deciding teaching loads
    ▪ Concern: Grad Faculty Status could be mis-used when it comes to workload and promotion and tenure
• Update: Office of International Programs (OIP)
  o Royall (recruitment/application vendor) visit: 3 working sessions
• Update: DPC
  o Reminder: Research Rendezvous on 10/19
    ▪ 44 students in poster competition
    ▪ New this year: 3-minute research competition
• Question re: PhD completion award: can student apply if finishing in summer?
  o Only spring completion (May graduation)

Old Business
Graduate Faculty Status (Borkowski)

- Borkowski prepared revised draft that incorporated Council feedback and second-round feedback from Legal Counsel
- Q: Why does UGC approve GFS for tenured/tenurable (TT) faculty?
  - Peer institutions do this. Council is a neutral body to approve and review criteria and quality
  - Concern raised that volume of faculty is too high for UGC to complete this approval process for every person
    - Will only begin review at 5 year renewal point; initial GFS status is automatic for all tenured/tenurable faculty. A faculty in this category can decline inclusion
  - Activity Insight will be integral to approval process
  - Concern raised: if there isn’t explicit language describing what UGC’s approval consists of, could create an issue between departments and UGC
    - There is language about the criteria
- Q: Is participation in professional society (item (3)d., qualifying criteria, in proposal) really as important as scholarship? What does it have to do with graduate education/mentoring?
  - Professional licensures are important (like in Architecture and Engineering) and sometimes required for promotion & tenure (Arch)
  - It is participation level that is important—organizing panels, recruiting at conferences—not just belonging to a professional society
  - Engagement is another term up for consideration—work in local communities, overseas, or with other units on campus (between depts.)
- Q: Why exclude 574 and 690 (item (3)b.) as qualifying criteria?
  - Because they are 1 on 1 graduate advising courses, which is covered in (3)a. “Supervise graduate level research or projects”
  - Also in some depts. the instructor of record for these courses isn’t the advisor
- Concern: “Opt-out” language could be in conflict with letter of hire duties. Is GFS a parallel with a letter of hire? Does GFS supersede it?
  - Choosing to decline GFS has no effect on the unit’s letter of hire requirements—the language in the proposal will be revised to clarify this point
- Q: Can a faculty member continue to serve on graduate committees and chair graduate committees without GFS?
  - Yes, as long as the faculty member is qualified and there is support by the dept. head.
- Q: When can we share with respective colleges?
  - Encourage discussions with your dean and faculty
  - A new draft will be sent before next UGC meeting and can be shared with departments
  - UGC Chair Borkowski will make himself available to answer questions of your dean and faculty if necessary

Adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

Next scheduled meeting – Oct 31 at 2 p.m.