UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL

MINUTES

October 11, 2023

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

SUB 168

Council in Attendance: Marc Giullian (Business) Stephanie McCalla (Faculty Senate) Craig Ogilvie (Dean of The Graduate School) Anja Kunze (Engineering alternate) Sweeney Windchief (Education) Heidi Koenig (Student Representative) Scott Powell (Agriculture) Wade Hill (Nursing) Amy Reines (Sciences) Christopher Livingston (Architecture) Brennan Reeves (Office of International Programs)

<u>Also in Attendance:</u> Lauren Cerretti (Graduate School)

<u>Absent</u> Rollin Beamish (Arts) Catherine Dunlop (Letters) Katey Franklin (Health & Human Development) Stephan Warnat (Engineering) Brian Rossmann (Library)

Meeting started at 10:05 a.m.

September 27, 2023 minutes

• Motion to approve by Powell, Hill 2nd, 5 pass, motion passes

Announcements

- Update from the Dean
 - Completion grants will be announced today
 - Recruiting initiatives:
 - Graduate Fair Nov 6-9 organized by Grad School and WebEx meetings hosted by departments for prospective students including one for international students
 - \circ $\;$ Other awards for recruiting:

- Presidential Award (usually 6 recipients @ \$2000), University Award (usually 4 recipients @ \$20k over 5 years—master's students can apply); Dean Ogilvie would like to ask for an increase in investment so more students can be funded. Increase Pres Award to 12 recipients and increase in funds (to \$5000) and increase publication so more depts apply. Univ Award increase from 4 to 8 recipients and offer \$25k over 5 years.
 - Q: can a 1 year master's program apply for Presidential Award?
 Will look into
 - Comment: if money is an issue, focusing on increasing Pres Award should take priority
- \circ $\;$ Housing: Univ Housing has some space avail for spring.
 - Univ has hired arch firm to do feasibility study and meet with stakeholders likely start in Nov. Does UGC want to meet with group?
 - Yes
- Dean Ogilvie is giving 994 Journey talk on Oct 23 at 4pm, SUB 233

• Faculty Senate update (McCalla)

- Social Media policy adopted; does not apply to your personal accounts
- Will be using Canvas next year
- List of software that the university has purchased and are available is being created (Software Atlas)
- Faculty Senate will be meeting with Ariel Donahue and Betsy Asserson about mental health resources. Concerned about student engagement and mental health. If members have noticed an increase in mental health issues with graduate students, please share with Stephanie McCalla.
 - Comment: GTAs may need support and resources for difficult conversations happening in their labs—how to navigate
 - Q: How does FS advise faculty operate after the affirmative action supreme course case? Has there been any discussion about that?
 - FS: Chief Diversity Officer Ariel Donahue coming today to Senate and has previously said since MSU doesn't admit based on race or ethnicity, it doesn't affect admissions. Any programs for Native American students are not covered by affirmative action because they are not a racialized group—they are a sovereign nation.
 - Follow up: Would be beneficial to re-engage the concept of holistic admissions institution-wide or at least at the graduate-level, which is our Council's focus.
 - Our third-party software provider asks student to identify gender, ethnicity in app and used to show to admissions committees—still possible the provider will still collect info but decide to hide it from admissions committees
- Continued discussion re: 1 credit extension and in absentia policy draft
 - Windchief moves to approve, Livingston 2nd, 7 yes, unanimous pass
 - GS will add note for international advice

- Next step: will go to JAGS committee
- Continued ETD process discussion (handout of optional ETD revisions form provided)
 - Last meeting, some members requested a form for documenting revisions to ETD (draft of form sent). Discussion
 - Should be a required part of the exam report
 - o If we framed it like it's optional but if things do not proceed well, it becomes required
 - Some faculty feel like there is no recourse if student does not make the revisions
 - Will update to a required part of the exam report so UGC can send to depts in their colleges for feedback

New Business

- Final Term Registration for non-research master's students
 - Dean Ogilvie provides background (also written on handout); discussion
 - Don't see disadvantage to prof paper programs to register for fewer credits
 - Wouldn't affect Accounting—almost never take so few credits
 - Grad School will write up suggested policy
- Clarify policy language on graduate certificate students and assistantships, discussion
 - Currently, confusion about if cert students can hold assistantships
 - Could see benefit for nursing cert students being able to hold assistantships
 - Prioritizing master's or doctoral students over cert students seems reasonable
 - o Also seeking clarification about academic warning and assistantships
 - Grad School will write up policy suggestion
- Revise formatting requirements for manuscript/scholarly works option, first discussion on potential policy revisions
 - Would still include intro and conclusion, but middle could be less traditional contents, including broader scholarly works from arts, humanities, and social sciences.
 - Would need research and vetting from Council and other stakeholders like the Library
 - Could be helpful for Architecture—would be way to include pieces that are often left out, multimedia, video files
 - Agreement from others
 - Likes connection to tenure role & scope document (language used)—if okay for faculty, should be okay for graduate students. Would be strong professionalization step for students
 - Some concern about standards in the field to best prepare a student for a post-doc or other job—still responsibility of faculty to advise students toward their goals and the document best-suited for it
 - UGC will discuss again next meeting

Updates from subcommittees

Public comment

Adjourned at 11:32 am

<u>Next scheduled meeting</u> – October 25th in SUB Room 168