

Minutes of **University Graduate Council**
September 23, 2009

Present: CHAIR Tim McDermott (AG), Bonita Peterson (BUS), William Ruff (EHHD), Warren Jones (ENGR), Carl Fox (DGE), Robert Bennett (L&S-Letters), Yves Idzerda (L&S-Science), Jane Scharff (NURS), David Petroni (STUDENT).

Also attending were DGE staff, Nathalie Caillaud (OIP), David Roberts (ECOL), Walter Fleming (NAS), Kristen Ruppel (NAS), and Janine Hansen (Ext. Univ.).

Meeting commenced at 10:10 a.m. in 325 Leon Johnson.

Introductions

- DGE staff introduced themselves, as did new and returning UGC members and guests.

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes for April 21, 2009 – moved, seconded and **unanimously approved.**

Open Campus Forum

- Dave Roberts came forward with interest in the tuition waiver discussion. Dave and council decided to wait for that agenda item to be addressed.

UGC Committee Reports

- Policies & Procedures- David Petroni and Warren Jones to join William Ruff and Bonita Peterson
- Governance- Jane Scharff
- Curriculum- Mark Huff to join Tim McDermott, Rollin Beamish, Carl Fox, Robert Bennett, and Yves Idzerda

DGE Staff Reports

- Kristin Gill, Admissions Coordinator, reported on graduate student recruitment
- This semester DGE admissions staff will visit Carroll College, University of Montana, several tribal colleges, and attend the California Forum for Diversity
 - DGE will have 2 page recruitment handouts from each department to assist in recruiting
 - Stephanie Cunningham also recruits for DGE while recruiting for the Molecular Biosciences program; the 2 pagers will be a great resource for her as well as all other graduate departments and programs at MSU
 - Graduate student recruitment video is almost complete
- MSU has been awarded a McNair program grant for first generation college students and under-represented minority students (approximately \$225,000/year). The goal of this program is to increase the number of first generation and minority students who enroll in graduate programs and complete graduate degrees.

- Donna Negaard, Fiscal and Student Services Manager, presented the new graduate student handbook. Information in the handbook is aimed at new students in particular, but is a good resource for current graduates as well
- DGE had a record number of attendees at the welcome dinner
- Enrollment numbers for fall are good. Currently up 50-60 FTE at the graduate level.
 - Students may drop due to attendance confirmation issues or financial issues
 - Lack of tuition waivers this year in comparison to previous years
 - Big wave of new masters students in Architecture as well as MSSE
 - National trend of increased graduate enrollment due to the current economic climate

Tuition Waivers – Discussion Points

- a. Carl's proposal is not for a vote, but for discussion only
- b. Graduate assistantships should not be viewed as positions of employment, they are awards
 - a. Student based, research or teaching, and are part of the education experience
 - b. Assistantships should be used to recruit the best students possible
 - c. We want to build PhD programs and increase the number of degrees awarded
 - d. Give awards & assistance to PhD students first leaving a remaining pool for Master's students?
 - e. Should students be given tuition waivers in place of stipends as some programs do?
 - f. Should courses that are on the program of study be the only courses that tuition is waived for?
- c. This type of policy could lead to a regressive award system where the rich get richer
- d. Not all departments are funded by NSF and other large grants besides having tuition waivers from the university
- e. Does the legislature have the authority, as opposed to the Board of Regents, to limit tuition waivers? This is the question of authority that must be cleared up.
- f. We have some very low enrollments in some of our graduate programs. Does it make sense to fund those programs in which a master's degree is the terminal degree?
- g. Last year we waived first year non-resident tuition for out-of-state students; that included international students
 - a. International students are an important component to the tuition waiver discussion as those students are very active in PhD programs
- h. This university has almost no training grants and very few fellowship programs; we don't have any big center grants, though we do have IGERT, INRA, etc. If we had that support we could use our funds elsewhere
- i. Fewer dollars were available from grants and contracts (from tuition waiver AY 09 handout)
 - a. Though enrollment is strong in several programs, the actual doctoral degrees awarded haven't increased in several decades
- j. What are the IRS regulations concerning award vs. employment?
 - a. Regulations on benefits, either the student is paying those benefits on their own, or the department is paying for them
 - b. Is the work benefiting them academically, or is it benefiting the department they work for?

- c. Students required to be enrolled in six credits to ensure compliance with IRS regulations
- d. Health Insurance, like benefits either the student or the department must bear this cost
- k. Who decides which programs are most important to MSU?
- l. When we have more students applying for a program than we have spots in that program, why do we offer stipends and tuition waivers to them?
 - a. We would not have GTAs in many departments without the stipend and the tuition waiver, at times the tuition waiver being most important
- m. If funds were available to offer better stipends it would lessen the burden on tuition waivers
- n. To limit tuition waivers to courses on the program of study could potentially be beneficial

Graduate Certificate Program for Native American Studies (NAS)

- a. Walter Fleming, department head of NAS, Kristen Ruppel, from NAS, and Janine Hansen from Extended University (EU)
- b. Native American Studies masters program has been offered at MSU since 2000; there has been great success and it continues to grow
 - a. There are only six masters programs in NAS in the entire US
 - b. 36 tribal colleges in US and Canada, and yet there is such a lack of masters programs across the country
 - c. Huge need for distance learning
 - d. K-12 teachers are now being required to integrate Native American Studies into their curriculums
 - e. Teachers can get promoted, re-certified, and given raises with masters and graduate certification qualifications
- c. NAS followed BOR level II approval for their certificate program
- d. Certificate would require the completion of 12 credits
- e. There is one new course so far, the department will also re-offer courses that have already been developed, both online and here at MSU
- f. Hoping people will migrate from the certificate program to the masters program
- g. Could follow the MSSE model to require some on-campus coursework along with the distance courses
- h. Do the other 5 masters programs in the US have online components
 - a. Some courses are offered online, however there is not an entire degree or certificate program
- i. Content and credit will meet OPI and Native Studies criteria
- j. Meets Indian Education for All (IEA) objectives
- k. Will the online courses be listed separately or cross-listed?
 - a. Don't know quite yet
 - b. Extended University courses are not listed in regular schedule of classes
- l. Program would be self-supported, and must cover costs for NAS as well as EU
- m. Will charge regular tuition through Extended Univ.
 - a. Non-residents will pay resident tuition
 - b. Non-res. Students taking online courses and attending courses on campus pay some additional fees, but still only pay resident tuition

- n. All credits taken for the certificate would be applicable to masters program, unless student is non-degree which limits the transferred coursework to nine credits.
- o. Questions to answer later:
 - a. Will certificate students be classified as continuing education (CE) or non-degree (ND) students?
 - b. Would we audit them in DGE in order to award the certificate?
 - c. Does certificate carry a GPA requirement?

Motion: Motion was made and seconded to **approve Certificate Program**, Approved by unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Catherine Dale, UGC Secretary
Division of Graduate Education