

## **Minutes of the Graduate Council (GC) for March 23, 2016**

Present: Bauer, Beise, Bruck, Caramello (Chair), Castonguay, Cork, Dalglish, Delwiche, DeShong, Hemingway, Kohn, Long, Maddox, Neubert, Paolisso, Rockcastle, Simpson, Sprinkle, Wang, Wilkins, Wilkinson

Staff: Chen, Franke, Leone, Woolston

### ***I. Approval of Minutes***

Minutes of the meeting of February 17, 2016 were approved with no emendations.

### ***II. Updates***

Dean Caramello updated the GC on Spring 2016 initiatives. The GS Office for Diversity and Inclusion will complete their five-part speaker series and two-part “Conversations on Diversity” series on April 28. The GS Writing Center will host Graduate Faculty Writing Workshops, two dissertation retreats, and two writing boot camps this spring and summer. The GS completed the Multiple Career Paths for Doctoral Students forum and three workshops. The forum was very successful, while attendance trailed off in the workshops. This format should be restructured by the new Director of Doctoral Professional Development, who will be on board by summer 2016. The GS Office for International Initiatives will host an international forum *China and India on the Global Stage: Past, Present, and Likely Future*, featuring Dr. Anil Gupta, on April 25. The GS Tax Assistance Program for international graduate students will be available through April 10. The GS has completed interviews for the Coordinator of the Office for Postdoctoral Scholars, with the goal of filling this position by May.

Assistant Dean Jeff Franke reported that the redesign of the Graduate Catalogue is progressing and should be complete in Fall 2016. The implementation of U Achieve, degree audit software, should be launched in Summer 2016. Selected programs are currently testing the software. Assistant Dean Franke informed the GC that the GS Annual Fellowships and Awards Celebration will be held on May 12 and the New Graduate Student Orientation and Spouse/Partner Welcome Event for AY 16-17 on August 22.

Dean Caramello informed the GC about a change to the time and agenda for the April 27 GC Meeting. In order for the GC to hear recommendations and proceed with motions from the three GC Working Groups on Graduate Certificates, Fellowship Allocation, and PI/RA Agreements, the meeting will begin at 10:30 am, followed by a working lunch at 12 noon. The meeting will conclude by 1 pm.

Dean Caramello reviewed two slides which demonstrated that in order for UMD to compete with University of Michigan and the University of California, Berkeley we must increase the number of graduate programs ranked in the top 10 nationally. In order to do this, UMD must increase its fellowship pool to compete with those at Michigan and Berkeley. Until UMD increases its fellowship pool it is critical that we maximize the effectiveness of current fellowship funds.

### ***III. Report and Discussion***

Councilor Bruck reported findings of the Working Group on Fellowship Allocation. The Working Group’s recommendations for discussion included elimination of the University Fellowship; reducing the

minimum Dean's Fellowship award to \$2,500; implementing direct allocation to programs for a majority of funds with smaller percentages to college deans for distribution to programs; maintaining the GS tracking system for fellowship allocations; and basing the metrics for allocation funding on quantifiable data that allow for maximum flexibility in timing of allocations.

Discussion of these recommendations followed, including the following points:

With respect to fellowship timing, Councilor Maddox commented that allocations are now made at one point for the campus. More flexibility would be beneficial to programs.

Councilor Delwiche proposed that GS Tuition Awards could be awarded separately from the fellowships, allowing programs to better leverage these tuition award funds. Under the current allocation system, students who receive external funding do not automatically receive a GS Tuition Award and some external funding sources do not allow funds to be used toward a tuition award. Therefore, this can discourage students from pursuing external funding. The new allocation system should be designed to encourage students to seek external funding. Councilor Wilkins supported this idea.

Councilor Leone noted that a new allocation model should help UMD maximize the effectiveness of the current fellowship pool, until such time when new monies can be raised to help UMD compete with Berkeley and Michigan fellowship funding pools.

Dean Caramello thanked the Working Group for their report and reminded the GC that these recommendations as well as those from the Working Groups on Graduate Certificates and PI/RA Agreements will be acted upon at the April 27 GC meeting. This meeting will begin at 10:30 am and conclude by 1 pm. Lunch will be served.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 12 Noon.