

Minutes of the Graduate Council (GC) Meeting of May 6, 2015

Present: Beise, Caramello (chair), Delwiche, DeShong, Dugan, Fu, Hemingway, Kohn, Laskowski, Paolisso, Popper, Rockcastle, Simpson, Tits, Wong, Wilkinson

Excused: Gibson, Yaros

Staff: Chen, Franke, Leone, Shayman, Woolston

I. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of March 3, 2015 were approved with no emendations.

II. Reports

Dean Caramello updated the GC on GS activities for AY 141-5. The GS awarded \$11.5 million in awards and fellowships to 216 students and 61 faculty. GS development and communications activities included 50 face-to-face visits, three alumni events, major gift proposals for two dissertation fellowships and one summer research fellowship, three newsletters, and a complete redesign of the GS website. International initiatives included a joint seminar and research program on Frederick Douglass with University College Cork; inaugural participation in international Universitas 21 Three Minute Thesis competition (a UMD student won the First Place and People's Choice Awards); funding of three students to attend the Universitas 21 Conference on New Technology in Shanghai; funding a GSG President Exchange with the University of Macau; awarding of 15 IGRFs; continuation of the GS Tax Assistance Program for International Graduate Assistants; and visits to Germany, Netherlands, and England. Diversity activities included four major PROMISE events, production of the video of Preparing URM Students at USG for Graduate Studies, and six PhD completion workshops. The GS Writing Center hosted over 450 consultations, two writing "boot camps," weekly write-in sessions, and several department-specific workshops.

Dean Caramello discussed the GS's initiatives for AY 15-16, including a pilot faculty program aimed at training faculty to provide writing workshops for graduate students at the college and program levels; review of the current fellowship allocation model; continued advocacy for fellowship fundraising in the University's capital campaign; partnering with TLTC to improve TA training; establishing a Postdoctoral Office in the GS; a joint graduate seminar and graduate student research project with University of Chile and University of Córdoba; and continuing to improve the GS use of technology by revising/updating the GS Catalogue, implementing U-Achieve, and converting petitions and waivers to electronic documents.

III. Updates

Dean Caramello reported on the formation of a GC Outcomes Assessment Policy Oversight Committee. The current Graduate Outcomes Assessment Committee, with representatives from each college, reviews graduate program outcomes assessment plans, reported data, and feedback. The Policy Oversight Committee will comprise members of the GC, and will set overall policy for Graduate Outcomes Assessment. Both committees will play an important role in the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) decennial accreditation review of UMD to be conducted in 2017. Councilors interested in serving on this committee should contact Kathy Worthington at kworthin@umd.edu.

Dean Caramello reported that the Working Group on Graduate Certificates, chaired by Councilor Sprinkle, has been charged and has begun meeting. It is studying the issue of graduate certificates on campus, conducting research on UMD certificates and best practices at peer institutions, and will make recommendations to the GC in Fall 2015 about how best to manage the growth of certificates to ensure both high standards and flexibility and responsiveness.

By prior invitation of the Dean, Councilor Hemingway updated the Council on the GSG's efforts to collaborate with the GC on developing a PI/RA Agreement of Expectations. Councilor Hemingway will provide the GC examples of mutual agreement documents. This will be a topic of discussion at the next GC meeting.

IV. Discussion of Centennial Vision for Graduate Education

Dean Caramello introduced a discussion of *The Centennial Vision: Graduate Education at UMD, Research and Professional Practice for a Global Economy*, a report developed in the GS at Dr. Loh's request and circulated to the GC prior to the meeting. This document outlines a strategic vision for graduate education at UMD, an enterprise whose centenary is 2019. The document centers on research and professional training as the twin missions for graduate education at UMD. The Dean has presented this document to the President and Provost, both of whom expressed their support of it.

Councilors Beise and Rockcastle commented that there is an increasing demand in many fields for a specialized advanced degree whose purposes are not met by the PhD.

Councilor Delwiche stated that the addition of a Professional Doctorate to UMD must be one that adds gravitas to the institution and satisfies rigid standards. The key issue in developing professional doctorates is demonstrating a demand that a current masters degree or research PhD is not meeting and developing such a degree within clear guidelines.

Councilor DeShong commented that the GS needs to continue its communications efforts to advance UMD's national profile in graduate education. In a subsequent email to the GC, Councilor DeShong recommended that the GS tell one or two stories well and REPEATEDLY so that the stories become a brand. Councilor DeShong stated that the purpose of a Graduate Council is to be the "institutional reservoir" so that the message does not change every time there is a change in the Administration.

Associate Dean Leone recommended that the GS develop one communication theme which would resonate through all activities.

Dean Caramello closed the meeting by thanking outgoing councilors for their service this year.

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