

Minutes of the Graduate Council Meeting held on September 25, 2013

Present: Chair: Caramello; Members: Andrews, Bruck, Cabrera, De La Paz, Delwiche, Dugan, Eno, Fu, Gibson, Hemingway, Joseph, Laskowski, Macready, Paolisso, Popper, Rosenfelt, Simpson, Sprinkle, Strein, Steele, Tilley, Tits, Wang; Affiliates: Beise, Dietrich; Associate/Assistant Deans: Chen, Franke, Leone, Shayman; Staff: Akhtar, Kotzker, McAdams Perez, Steele, Vorhies, Worthington

I. Approval of the Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of June 4, 2013, were approved with no emendations.

II. Introduction of New Councilors and Staff

Dean Caramello welcomed new and returning Councilors to the Graduate Council and introduced Jeff Franke, Assistant Dean/Chief of Staff, who joined the Graduate School in Spring 2013.

AD/CoF Franke reviewed recent appointments in the Graduate School and discussed an evolving “conceptual map” of the GS. This map formulates the GS as comprising broad areas of academic and administrative components; reflects the establishment of Offices for Diversity Initiatives, International Initiatives, Student Success Initiatives, Teaching and Learning, Fellowships and Awards, and External Relations; and depicts the reorganization of GS operational staff into focused teams for more effective and efficient service and support of graduate students and programs.

III. Updates and Reports

Dean Caramello provided updates to the Council on several GS initiatives and reported to Councilors that the UMD, UMB, and UMBC PROMISE alliance received an NSF AGEP grant for \$1.75 million, one of the very few AGEP grants awarded in 2013.

AD/CoF Franke reported data on graduate degrees awarded in 2013 and on applications, admissions, and enrollments for Fall 2013. He also reviewed the Hobsons implementation schedule. Hobson’s Apply Yourself will “go live” in Spring 2014 (for Spring 2015 admissions).

Associate Dean Shayman reviewed the establishment of a GS Office for Teaching and Learning and updated activities of the Graduate Writing Center.

IV. Ad Hoc Committees

Dean Caramello asked for volunteers to serve on two working groups that will review the issues of TA Training and Dissertations for Professional Doctorates. These will be staffed by Associate Deans Shayman and Chen, respectively, and chaired by Council members. The TA Training working group will research best practices and make recommendations for a pyramidal structure for TA Training that includes the GS, colleges, and programs. The Professional Doctorate working group will review the College of Education’s proposal regarding dissertations and dissertation committees for the EdD and will review best practices for professional doctoral degrees in general.

V. Discussion

Dean Caramello reviewed the attached discussion document “Imagining Doctoral Education for the Future” and opened a preliminary conversation on it by the Council.

Councilor Delwiche noted that the PhD initially was developed to train professors. We should now examine how skills developed in PhD preparation can be made transferrable to other professions. In responding to relevant market forces, however, we must proceed with caution and not create hollow degrees.

Councilor Popper added that doctoral programs should no longer strive to train “clones,” but should focus on preparing students for their professional goals.

Councilor Rosenfelt stated that some schools have added programs specifically for students who want to work in Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and other careers outside of academia.

Councilor Strein commented that the PhD should not lose its defining feature of “producing new knowledge.”

Councilor Steele added that many professionals now seek higher degrees while remaining in the workplace and in their home communities. Institutions should explore how to accommodate these students as well as those studying in the traditional “on-campus” environment.

Dean Caramello will ask councilors from various disciplines to consider these issues and lead a future Council discussion on them.

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