

Minutes of the Graduate Council Meeting held on December 19, 2012

Present: Chair: Charles Caramello; Members: David Colon Cabrera, David Cronrath, Charles Delwiche, Laura Dugan, Robert Gibson, David Inouye, Lenisa Joseph, Pete Kyle, Chris Laskowski, Leigh Leslie, Donna Lim, George Macready, Rochelle Newman, Michelle Rowley, Elisabeth Smela, Rob Sprinkle, Bill Strein, Jack Sullivan, David Tilley
Ex Officio Councilors: Alex Chen, Mark Shayman, Lee Thornton; Graduate School Staff: Shaundra Myers, Kathy Worthington

I. Approval of the Minutes

Minutes of the September 25, 2012 meeting were approved with no emendations.

II. Update on Pending GS Initiatives

Fellowship Enhancements

Dean Caramello reported an overall enhancement of ~\$600,000 to existing fellowships and the establishment of two new fellowships. Flagship and Merit Fellowships were both increased, as well as the discretionary fund for exceptional recruitment. The two new graduate school fellowships are the Graduate Dean's Dissertation Fellowship and Graduate School All-STAR Fellowship.

Diversity Initiatives

Dean Caramello provided an update on activities of the GS Office for Diversity Initiatives, led by Director Robert E. Steele. Major activities of this office include the launch in February 2013 of the pilot project at the Universities of Shady Grove to provide USG undergraduates with thorough information about graduate education; submission of a \$1.75M AGEP proposal to NSF for *Promise: Maryland Transformation* in October in partnership with UMBC and UMB; and meetings of the Graduate School Diversity Advisory Committee.

International Initiatives

Dean Caramello reviewed progress of the GS Office for International Initiatives, led by Executive Director Val Woolston. Current major activities of this office include formalizing policies and procedures for the successfully piloted GS International Graduate Research Fellowship program and organizing planning conferences for collaborations between UMD and University of Tuebingen to begin with joint instructional and training projects for graduate students in biomedical fields and in neuroscience and cognitive science. The GS will sponsor the travel for a delegation of UMD scientists to visit UT in March 2013.

Graduate Student Writing Initiative and Masters Degree and Graduate Certificate Surveys

Mark Shayman, Associate Dean for Student Success, reviewed progress on the Graduate Student Writing Initiative and Masters Degree and Graduate Certificate Survey. The Graduate Student Writing Initiative will launch several pilot programs this spring including structured writing work groups, facilitated peer groups, a writing fellows program, and an instructional writing program for faculty. Associate Dean Shayman recognized Heather Blain-Vorhies, Graduate School Post Doctoral Research Associate, for her efforts in leading the development of this initiative.

Associate Dean Shayman informed the council that the survey to create a taxonomy of Masters and Graduate Certificate programs will be available on line in January 2013, for completion by Graduate Coordinators in February 2013. Data from this survey will be analyzed and distributed and will form a basis for updating graduate outcomes assessment plans for these programs.

Hobsons Apply Yourself

Dean Caramello provided an update on the Hobsons Apply Yourself implementation. The implementation is on schedule to be available for use in Spring 2013 for applicants for Spring 2014. Dean Caramello noted that test applications are being completed by GS staff and that continued usage of the historical information in MEGS is being thoroughly reviewed.

Meet and Confer

Dean Caramello informed the Council that the Graduate Assistant Advisory Committee (GAAC) have been completed. The new GAAC consists of 12 elected members and the GSG President as an ex-officio member. A meeting of GAAC with the Dean, Provost and VP for Administration and Finance will be held in early February at which GAAC will consider Meet and Confer and other issues.

External Collaborations

Dean Caramello informed the Council of potential collaborations between UMD and UMB as part of the MPowering the State initiative, and between the Graduate Schools comprising the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) of the Big Ten schools. These potential activities will provide new opportunities for graduate students.

III. Parental Accommodation

Dean Caramello discussed current and proposed new policy for Graduate Assistant Parental Accommodation (see attachment 1). The proposed new policy would guarantee parental accommodation of six weeks during which GAs would retain their full stipend and benefits, as opposed to current policy that recommends six week parental accommodation as a “best practice.” The Council of Deans enthusiastically approved a recommendation that guarantees six week parental accommodation with full stipend and benefits, with funding of such accommodation at the college level. Dean Caramello asked for feedback from the council prior to voting on this recommendation

Councilors Smela, Newman, Gibson, and Rowley wanted a clearer sense of “funding at the college level,” expressing concern that this could be an unfunded mandate affecting departments and PIs. Councilor Delwiche stressed that the key difference in the new policy is the term *guarantee* and questioned how this would be managed without a new influx of funds. Councilor Dugan advocated a central fund which would pay for parental accommodation without utilizing grant funds.

Councilors Cabrera and Joseph supported the Dean’s recommendation and advocated that the policy be approved in concept, with financial details to be handled at the college level.

Dean Caramello proposed the following, to which there were no objections,

“It is the sense of the meeting to support recommendation A in principle and to seek further clarification on Recommendation B.”

The councilors also agreed that a vote on the proposed Parental Accommodation policy might be handled via email once the funding matter was clarified.

IV. Proposed Elimination of Print Copies of Dissertations in the Library

Dr. Pat Steele, Dean of the Libraries, and Terry Owen, DRUM Coordinator, discussed presented a proposal for the elimination of print dissertation copies at the library (see attachment 2). Dean Steele and Mr. Owen informed the council that usage patterns did not warrant maintaining print copies, and that not maintaining print copies was becoming standard practice nationally. Councilors Smela and Tilley expressed concern over

moving away from print copies, with Councilor Smela's concern was backup for electronic files and Councilor Tilley's was continued availability of printed copies if requested. Dean Steele confirmed that numerous backup systems were in place to ensure the security of the electronic versions and that copies of dissertations could be printed on demand.

Councilor Joseph moved the proposal for the Elimination of Print Copies of Dissertations in the Library; it was seconded by Councilor Sprinkle. The succeeding vote was 15 yes-1 no-0 abstain.

V. College of Education Proposal for Requesting Changes in Doctoral Examining Committee for Ed.D

Margaret J. McLaughlin, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education, and David Imig, Professor of the Practice from the College of Education, presented a proposal to request changes in the Dissertation Examining Committee for the Doctorate of Education (Ed.D). The changes are recommended to help differentiate the Ed.D. from the Ph.D. degree in education, and are intended to establish the Ed.D. as a professional practice degree (see attachment 3). Dean Caramello advised the council that this item would be sent to committee for further review and opened a discussion is to begin that process.

Councilor Delwiche expressed concern that changes should not negatively affect the integrity of the doctorate degree and stated that the proposal effectively eliminates the concept of candidacy. Associate Dean McLaughlin explained that candidacy is not necessary under this proposal, as the student's research for his/her capstone project would extend throughout the length of the program and since there would be vigorous mid-term evaluations of each candidate to evaluate progress.

Dean Caramello will appoint a committee to vet this issue.

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