

Minutes of the Graduate Council Meeting held on February 22, 2012

Present: *Chair:* Caramello; *Members:* Bob Anderson, Elizabeth Beise, David Cronrath, Ian Mather, Kalyani Chadha, Kari Kraus, Albert Kyle, Chris Laskowski, Mark Leone, George Macready, Bill McDonough, Rochelle Newman, Foon Sham, John Shea, Bob Sprinkle, Bill Strein, Psyche Williams-Forson, Elisabeth Smela, Jack Sullivan, Bill Strein, Steve Wolniak; *Student Councilors:* Anna Bedford, Ethan Watermeier, Mike Wiederoder; *Ex Officio Councilors:* Arthur Popper; *Graduate School Staff:* Cynthia Hale, Justin Mahar, Shaun Myers, Joe Williams, Kathy Worthington; *Affiliated:* Barbara Finkelstein

I. Approval of the Minutes

Minutes of the November 30, 2011 meeting were approved with no dissension.

II. Announcements and Presentations

Dean Caramello provided updates on the following Graduate School initiatives:

- A webpage featuring a search engine for external funding has been added to the GS website. Easily accessible from the GS homepage, it will assist graduate students in finding external sources of funding for research, travel, etc.
- The Graduate School English Editing for International Graduate Students (EEIGS) is a long-standing service staffed by retirees (many of them former faculty members) and funded by the GS to assist international students with writing projects. The GS will publicize this service more widely to graduate students through the website and student listserv.
- The GS developed, funded, and hosted a Winter Write-In in January. This three-day writing “boot camp” was designed to assist graduate students in various stages of dissertation writing. The GS hopes that this pilot program eventually will produce a model that colleges and programs can adapt to assist students in their specific disciplines.
- The GS will launch a writing resources webpage for graduate students this Spring. Developed following several focus groups with graduate students and research of best practices at peer institutions, the webpage will assist graduate students in locating writing resources and will provide examples of various kinds of writing (e.g., dissertation proposals, dissertation chapters).
- The GS will fund mandatory student fees for Wylie Fellowship recipients beginning in Fall 2013.
- The GS has created new annual awards to recognizing the outstanding efforts of Directors and Coordinators of Graduate Studies across campus. The inaugural awards will recognize two DGSs and two CGSs and will be announced at the annual GS Fellowships and Awards Celebration in May 2012.
- The GS has developed an Office for International Initiatives comprising Executive Director Val Woolston (Europe) and Senior Faculty Advisors Chuan Liu (China) and Saul Sosnowski (Latin America and Middle East). The Office will help facilitate international initiatives of colleges and programs, including pending initiatives in China, Vietnam, Germany, Denmark, England, Malta, Argentina, Brazil, and Chile.

III. Graduate Admissions and Admissions System

Assistant Dean Hale reviewed application and admission figures for Fall 2012. Overall GS applications rose 3%, with black/African American applications rising 7%. In addition, for the second year in a row, the GS saw a large increase (25%) in applications from China. Applications from India rose 8% after a one-year decline in Fall 2011.

The campus is moving forward to replace the MEGS application system. After an extensive review of application systems and consultation with peer institutions and campus units, the GS has selected Hobsons Apply Yourself and will enter into a five-year agreement with Hobsons. The GS anticipates launching the program for Fall 2013 admits. Programs will continue to have individualized applications.

Justin Maher, GS Post Doctoral Research Associate, announced the launching of the GRAD PRO website, an interactive website developed to train DGSs and CGSs in policies and procedures and to assist them with implementation.

IV. Committee Reports

Dean's Representative

Councilor Ian Mather, Chair of the Dean's Representative Ad Hoc Committee, provided a preliminary report from the committee on updating the current Dean's Representative policy. The Committee's work included surveying policies in peer institutions and consulting with various campus departments. The Committee recommended that language be added to the current Report of the Examining Committee form verifying that polices and procedures were followed appropriately.

Certificate Programs

Councilor Jack Sullivan, Chair of the Certificate Programs Ad Hoc Committee, provided a preliminary report of discussions held between the GS and Office of Extended Services (OES). Issues for the Committee to review include: creation of a new admission category for stand-alone GCPS and MPS degree programs; academic issues related to these programs, such as double-counting courses and co-mingling students; and appropriate academic and administrative oversight of programs.

V. Forum

The Council discussed possible development of a Masters Degree and Graduate Certificates in Liberal Studies, which might be attractive to life-long learners and other constituencies. Councilors thought that such programs could be very attractive to professionals seeking to supplement their education and work experience with extended academic expertise in their own or in adjacent fields. Such degree programs might be offered at Universities at Shady Grove, perhaps in collaboration with UMB. Such an initiative would require extensive market research.

Dean Caramello asked Councilors to forward items for discussion at future meetings to his attention.

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