## Minutes of the Graduate Council (GC) Meeting of May 14, 2014

Present: Bauer, Beise, Caramello (chair), Colon-Cabrera, Chauda, Delwiche, DeShong, Dugan, Fox, Hemingway, Laskowski, Liu, Macready, Popper, Simpson, Sprinkle, Strein, Sullivan, Tits, Wang

Staff: Chen, Franke, Leone, McAdams, Shayman, Steele, Woolston

### I.  *Approval of Minutes*

Minutes of the meeting of February 19, 2014 were approved with no emendations.

### II. *Reports*

Assistant Dean Jeff Franke updated the GC on several topics. International applications outpace domestic applicants (57% / 43%) for Spring 2014 applications. Hobsons Apply Yourself will go live Monday, May 19. The GS has also added Hobson's *Connect*, a new customer relations management system (CRM); *AppReview Module*, an application reviewing and processing system; and *TurnItIn*, an internet-based service for checking authenticity of application materials.

Associate Dean Mark Leone reported that the GS named 151 students and 68 faculty/staff as recipients of GS fellowships and awards in AY 13-14 (e.g. Flagship Fellowships, Outstanding Graduate Faculty Mentor of the Year Awards). Selected by campus-wide faculty committees, these fellowship and award winners were recognized at the Ninth Annual GS Fellowships and Awards ceremony on May 8. Some 250 faculty, staff, and students attended the event. AD Leone expressed his thanks to Councilors who had served on award selection committees.

Valerie Woolston, Executive Director of GS Office for International Initiatives, updated the GC on initiatives including the funding and launch of five projects in the UMD/University Tübingen Joint Research and Training Project in Neuroscience, Cognitive Science, and Bioscience; collaboration between the GS Field Committee in Film Studies and the Film Studies Program at University of Roehampton; UMD and University College Cork (Ireland) joint Graduate Seminar and Research Project on Fredrick Douglass; awarding of thirteen International Graduate Research Fellowships (IGRF); and activities of GS delegations to several Latin American and Asian countries, including visits to over 40 universities, educational government agencies, and NGOs.

Robert Steele, Director GS Office for Diversity Initiatives, discussed four areas of focus including targeted, data-based recruitment strategies; continuing to build on student success programs targeted to URM student populations; fostering campus-wide, research-based discussion on graduate diversity; and outreach to URM alumni.

Associate Dean Mark Shayman reported on the formal opening of the Graduate School Writing Center in McKeldin Library; expansion of the Graduate Writing Fellows Program (~200 tutorial consultations in the Fall semester); activities of the English Editing for International Graduate Students (EEIGS) program (five volunteer editors and serving ~25 students per month; ten workshops offered on writing in the disciplines; and the piloting of a blended graduate writing course. AD Shayman also reported on the Graduate Financial Literacy Workshops held in April and videotaped and edited for wide online distribution.

*III. Discussion Topics*

**Preparation of PhD Students for Multiple Career Tracks (Councilor Popper)**

Councilor Popper reported that the GC Working Group on this important issue has met and will work over the Summer to research best practices on campus and at peer institutions and to make recommendations that the GS could begin to implement as early as Fall 2014.

**The PhD and Professional Doctoral Degrees at UMD (Councilor Sprinkle)**

Councilor Sprinkle updated the GC on the progress of the GC Working Group on this topic. The Working Group will finalize its report, to be distributed to the GC in Fall 2014.

Councilor DeShong noted that strong caution must be taken when addressing this issue, to ensure that the PhD is not "watered down." Councilor Sullivan concurred, raising the question of whether professional doctoral degrees would serve as credentials for faculty positions in higher education.

**Teaching Assistant Training (Councilor Bauer)**

Councilor Bauer reported that the Working Group on this issue was charged with reviewing the current status of TA training on campus and at peer institutions and making recommendations for improvements that build on existing practices. He then summarized several recommendations in the Groups report that will be shared with the GC in detail in AY 2014-15.

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