

Minutes of the Graduate Council Meeting held on September 25, 2012

Present: Chair: Charles Caramello; Councilors: Elizabeth Beise, Kalyani Chadha, Charles Delwiche, Laura Dugan, Jason Farman, Robert Gibson, Kari Kraus, Mark Leone, George Macready, Rochelle Newman, Mike Raupp, Michelle Rowley, Elisabeth Smela, Jack Sullivan, Andre Tits, Steve Wolniak; Student Councilors: Julie Choe Kim, David Colon Cabrera, Shelby Cooley, Lenisa Joseph, Ex Officio Councilors: Mark Shayman, Lee Thornton; Graduate School Staff: Cynthia Hale, Heather Blain Vorhies, Kathy Worthington

I. Approval of the Minutes

Minutes of the May 9, 2012 meeting were approved with no emendations.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Dean Caramello introduced new councilors, provided an overview of current Graduate School staff roles and responsibilities, and reviewed the Graduate School organizational chart, which highlighted substantial growth since 2005 without an increase to the Graduate School operating budget. Dean Caramello also recognized Julie Choe Kim for her service to the Graduate School, as she will be leaving the University at the end of this month.

III. Major Initiative Reports

Hobsons Apply Yourself

Assistant Dean Hale provided an overview of the Hobsons Apply Yourself implementation, which is on schedule for use in Spring 2013 by applicants for Spring 2014. Applicants for Fall 2013 will apply through the current MEGS system. Colleges and programs are being surveyed to determine which elements of MEGS will be retained for use by programs following Hobsons implementation. The GS is communicating on this and other matters via designated contacts for Hobsons in each college.

Graduate School Offices

Dean Caramello provided an overview of three newly formed Graduate School Offices designed to focus key areas of strategic importance:

The **Office for Diversity Initiatives**, led by Director Robert E. Steele, will advance innovative, data-based recruitment, retention, and support initiatives targeted to underrepresented minorities and will develop academic initiatives to encourage campus conversation on diversity in graduate education at UM and beyond.

Three current initiatives include establishing a Graduate School Diversity Advisory Committee, a “blue ribbon” committee of faculty and students with seniority and expertise; collaborating with UMBC and UMB on a multi-million proposal to NSF to fund an AGEP initiative that will follow the expired PROMISE grant; and implementing a pilot project at the Universities of Shady Grove to provide USG undergraduates with tools to recognize benefits of graduate education, identify appropriate graduate schools and graduate programs, apply for admission and financial support, and succeed once enrolled.

The **Office for International Initiatives**, led by Executive Director Valerie Woolston, will coordinate and advance GS international initiatives and work with colleges and programs to facilitate their international graduate initiatives.

Current initiatives include newly piloted Graduate School International Research Fellowships, which facilitate and provide support for students to participate in research projects abroad. During the pilot, eight students and two faculty from five colleges participated in projects in six countries. The GS is now formalizing

this program and will distribute guidelines later this academic year. Dean Caramello noted that faculty involvement at participating institutions is critical to the success of the fellowship for the student. In a second major initiative organized by the GS, 10-12 scientists from UMD and University of Tuebingen, working in Neuroscience and Cognitive Science, will be brought together for virtual meetings this Fall/Winter and an on-site meeting in Tübingen in Spring 2013. The goal will be to create collaborative research projects involving graduate students, joint courses for students, and other initiatives. Dr. Arthur Popper, Senior Faculty Advisor for STEM Initiatives in the GS, is the point person for the UMD-UT initiative.

Dean Caramello noted that the UMD China Task Force had recently submitted its report to President Loh and that copies had been distributed on campus.

IV. Discussion Topics

Graduate Writing Initiatives

The third newly formed GS office, the **Office for Writing Initiatives**, is being led by Associate Dean Mark Shayman. Utilizing the report of the Task Force on Graduate Student Writing, the Office is planning and mapping an ambitious program of ongoing writing initiatives for graduate students at campus, college, program, and individual faculty and student levels, including the creation of a Writing Center for Graduate Students. The twin goals of this umbrella program are to assist individual graduate students with writing and to improve campus graduate level writing overall. Dean Caramello asked for feedback from the Council to help Dr. Shayman and Postdoctoral Research Associate Vorhies in developing the plan.

Councilor Mather stressed that writing support must commence at the start of a graduate student's career. Councilor Leone added that support must address English-speaking as well as ESL graduate students.

Councilor Delwiche commented that the office's highest priority should be to facilitate peer review groups, as he has found them to be the most effective writing support services provided to his students.

Councilor Smela added the office should consider making lectures, workshops, etc. available on line, both live and archived; she asked if the site could provide clarification and guidelines for graduate faculty regarding what faculty without English degrees can and cannot teach in regards to writing; and she added that the Graduate School should consider developing a "for faculty" section on the writing resources website.

Councilor Macready stressed the importance of ongoing evaluation of writing initiatives.

Graduate Certificates and Masters Degrees: Program Surveys and GOA Plans

Dean Caramello informed the council that the GS also will focus on Masters Degrees and Graduate Certificates in AY 12-13. In the first phase, scheduled for mid-winter, streamlined and online surveys of approximately 20 questions will be administered and used to create a taxonomy of campus Masters Degrees and Graduate Certificates; this taxonomy will facilitate strategic planning and the creation and development of new programs. The initiative is not a program review or assessment. In the second phase, scheduled for spring, the campus GOA Committee will establish a process and schedule for program development of GOA plans for Masters Degree and Graduate Certificate programs. Some general discussion followed.

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