Graduate Council Minutes

November 21, 2011

Members Present: Gwendolyn Jones Harold (Chair), Richard Pearce-Moses, Craig Hill, Deborah Deckner, Patricia Smith, Greg McNamara, Mari Roberts, Robert Vaughan, Tom McIlwain, Betty Lane, Judith Ogden, Linda Nash, Joe Johnson and William Hong.

Members Not Present: Lynn Stover

Meeting called to order by Dean Harold at 2:00 p.m.

Dean Harold asked Council members for any additions or modifications to the agenda. No additions or modifications to the agenda were requested.

The minutes from the October 17, 2011 meeting will be available for review at the next Graduate Council meeting.

Greg McNamara presented proposed revisions to the non-thesis option for the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies degree program. The Arts and Sciences curriculum committee reviewed and approved the request. Council members had no questions or concerns regarding the proposal. McNamara will write the course requirements and description and present them at the next Graduate Council meeting.

Deborah Deckner provided an update on the discussions of the Graduate Council by-laws subcommittee. The subcommittee was unsure if the School of Graduate Studies was considered an academic unit. This question also arose in conjunction with the subcommittee work on the Graduate Council/Faculty Senate relationship. Dean Harold indicated the School of Graduate Studies was considered an academic unit of the University. This information was confirmed via conversations with the Provost regarding the topic. The Graduate Council by-laws subcommittee members indicated they will continue working on a draft proposal and present at a future Graduate Council meeting.

Dean Harold indicated the Graduate Assistantship procedure guide was updated and asked Council members to provide her with any feedback. The new guide was extensively reviewed by the Deans. Council members asked to add a stipulation that individual degree programs may have higher selection requirements.

The Council reviewed and acted on the graduate faculty applications listed below:

* Scott Bailey (Ph.D.), College of Information and Mathematical Sciences (Associate Status) – recommendation to approve was made by McIlwain, seconded by Hong, and approved by the Council.
* Michael Dancs (Ph.D.), College of Information and Mathematical Sciences (Associate Status) – recommendation to approve was made by McIlwain, seconded by Nash, and approved by the Council.
* Cotton Williams (M.A.), College of Information and Mathematical Sciences (Affiliate Status) – recommendation to approve was made by McIlwain, seconded by Pearce-Moses, and approved by the Council.
* John Parkerson (L.L.M. and J.D.), College of Business (Affiliate Status) – recommendation to approve was made by McIlwain, seconded by Ogden and approved by the Council.
* Shayla Mitchell (Ph.D.), College of Arts and Sciences (Full Status) – tabled until the next Graduate Council meeting since the electronic copy of the application was not received.

Announcements

* The Council indicated it would prefer to maintain the same meeting times (second Monday of each month at 2:00 pm) for the next year.
* Dean Harold welcomed Joe Johnson to the Graduate Council. He will be serving until Celeste Walley-Jean returns from her leave of absence.
* The Council indicated it will revisit the categories for graduate faculty membership spring 2012 to refine the definitions and qualifications of the various membership types.
* Dean Harold indicated she was working on creating a graduate faculty handbook and a graduate director handbook. These publications will assist graduate faculty members to understand roles, responsibilities and expectations. Draft copies will be sent to Graduate Council for review at a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Elizabeth Taylor