Minutes – Graduate Council Meeting – October 19, 2012
2:00 p.m. – Gillham Park Room

Members present: Larry Garrison, Sue Vartuli, Trent guess, Lindsey Williams, Laurie Ellinghausen, Nathan Oyler, James Murowchick, Jianping Wang, Ed Gogol, William Lafferty. Also present, Dean Denis Medeiros, Colleen Kelly, and Nancy Hoover.

Visiting: Kathleen Kilway, Adam Shoemaker

Excused: Mary Walker, Jane Peterson, Roger Pick

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes for September 21, 2012. It was moved by Oyler, seconded by Williams to approve the minutes with the following corrections: (1) Dr. Jerry Jean’s doctoral faculty appointment was approved by both Chemistry and Physics. (2) Dr. Karen Williams’ appointment was for an additional discipline affiliation in the School of Medicine, not in the School of Dentistry. Motion passed.

2. Announcements

Dr. Medeiros briefly discussed the catalog policy that deals with graduate student ineligibility due to unsatisfactory progress or performance. He explained that a student may be dismissed from a graduate program irrespective of their GPA if the faculty of a unit consider the student’s performance unsatisfactory.

Dr. Medeiros also discussed the possibility of BS/MS programs and asked for feedback from the Council members.

The Graduate Council meeting scheduled for January 18 will be postponed to January 25 as school does not start until that week.

3. Internet-Based TOEFL (iBT) scores requirement for International GTAs (Adam Shoemaker)

Dr. Medeiros explained that there have been complaints from various departments about the currently-accepted score of 28. Dr. Kilway attended the meeting to discuss the current score level and her department’s belief that the score should be lowered. Adam Shoemaker distributed information regarding how the current score was chosen and further explained that scores of 26 & 27 allowed provisional status. The lack of institutional support to remediate students who do not score a 28 was discussed.

It was decided that a subcommittee of Lindsey Williams and Nathan Oyler will examine the current score requirement and make recommendations back to the Council.
4. Discussion of Graduate Student Financial Support

- Council members discussed at length possibilities for distributing graduate student support monies. Dr. Medeiros said there is approximately $300,000 available plus $30,000 for student travel. The following items were mentioned in the discussion:
  - Supplements to TA stipends
  - Since it’s not enough money to help all TAs, maybe require an application process and fund about 30% of them
  - Because that would require a multi-year commitment, maybe a more accessible fellowship after the first year
  - Maybe smaller multi-year awards. Bank the money to distribute over multi-years.
  - Definitely keep the travel program
  - Maybe award stipend-only (no tuition) fellowships
  - More money per student or less money to more students?
  - Maybe a happy medium like $4000 for more students
  - What about attracting donors?
  - Require some kind of matching funds if the unit distributes, but not if the award is open to all students.
  - Maybe limit/reserve some for minority or first-generation students
  - Spend on seminars for ALL graduate students

5. Report of Subcommittees on actions taken on pending applications for appointment or reappointment to the Doctoral Faculty and/or Graduate Faculty, and reports on pending discipline-specific criteria. The following actions were reported:

**Social and Behavior Sciences Subcommittee (Larry Garrison, Chair)**
- Gary Ebersole (Religious Studies) – Reappointment to Doctoral Faculty
- Peggy Ward-Smith (School of Nursing) – Reappointment to Doctoral Faculty

**Humanities and Arts Subcommittee (Lindsey Williams, Chair)**
- Dan Mahala (English) – Reappointment to Doctoral Faculty
- Jeff Rydberg-Cox (Humanities) – Appointment to Doctoral Faculty
- Massimiliano Vitiello (History) – Appointment to Doctoral Faculty

The Humanities Consortium criteria was approved except for item d. “Being awarded (as a PI or Co-PI) extramural grant funding (e.g., NEH, NEA)”

**Natural and Physical Sciences Subcommittee (Ed Gogol, Chair)**
- Anthony Caruso (Physics) – Reappointment to Doctoral Faculty
- Xiabo Chen (Chemistry) – Appointment to Doctoral Faculty
- Jerry Dias (Chemistry) – Reappointment to Doctoral Faculty
- Andrew Holder (Chemistry) – Reappointment to Doctoral Faculty
- Charles Wurrey (Chemistry) – Reappointment to Doctoral Faculty

The suggestion was also made that doctoral faculty applications specifically list the items they are using to meet the scholarly activity criteria.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.