

# UBGS MINUTES

**To:** UBGS Members  
**From:** Bill Wiener  
**Date:** 9-3-09  
**Re:** University Board of Graduate Studies  
Approved Minutes of the September 3, 2009 UBGS Meeting

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*Present:* Margaret Bull, Jay Caulfield, Robert Griffin, Stephen Guastello, Arthur Hefti, Ed Inderrieden, Mike Johnson, Sarah Knox, Kurt Laha, Tim Melchert, Stephen Merrill, Craig Pierce, Albert Rivero, Otto Widera, Bill Wiener

*Excused:* Kim Halula, Michael Waxman

*Also Present:* Melody Baker (note taker)

The committee was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Dr. Griffin, chair of the UBGS. The agenda was approved after an amendment to hold the elections for secretary and vice chair first. All members introduced themselves and were asked to consider serving in the position of secretary or vice chair. Dr. Merrill volunteered to serve as vice chair. Dr. Caulfield volunteered to serve another year as secretary. Motions were made and seconded for both of these positions and the two were accepted by acclamation.

## Reports:

### *Report from the Graduate Dean:*

Dr. Wiener reported that the Graduate School has been working with the Office of Marketing and Communication to promote graduate programs. Different methods and ideas are being considered including how assistantships are offered.

Darren Jackson has been appointed as the new chair of the Marquette University Board of Trustees. It is expected that he will be very helpful in determining a strategic direction for the university. In light of that, there may be questions coming regarding graduate programs.

Last year a moratorium was placed on any new programs that require new resources. The moratorium still stands this year. Two proposals (one from Counseling Education & Counseling Psychology and one from Theology) have been submitted for consideration and may go before the UBGS providing there are no new resources required and that they are approved by the APT.

The Academic Senate is studying how committees and boards communicate to the faculty. Dr. Widera added that a major topic of conversation with the Academic Senate will be shared governance. Dr. Wiener asked if the members would like to continue to approve minutes electronically to expedite the process of getting them posted and everyone agreed they would.

Dr. Wiener shared the figures for enrollment and that the university is up over 1% over all.

Dr. Wiener described how the Academic Program Reviews were handled last year and shared how the process for Academic Program Reviews has now changed. He listed the departments reviewed in the past year that will still be discussed, along with their action plans with the provost. The provost announced, in discussions with the Academic Planning Team, that he

would like to totally revamp the program. This is in part due to the amount of time that it takes departments to accumulate all the necessary information for a review.

Dr. Wiener also shared the end of the year report from last year's joint academic program review committee and what the findings were in regard to issues and needs among all the external reviews they studied. Dr. Merrill, who served on this subcommittee, said important threads for the UBGS were, programs being able to maintain undergrad and grad program requirements and how that related to faculty promotion and tenure requirements. It was also discovered that many departments did not have a plan for where they were heading in regard to faculty retiring, increasing space requirements. The subcommittee made recommendations to these programs to put a plan in place for the near future. He expressed concern for the changes being made to the process if there is no follow up and close examination of programs. Operational budgets affect the ability of faculty to achieve promotion and tenure requirements, among other things, when faculty are unable to travel to present their research.

A question was asked whether online learning was discussed. Dr. Wiener said that MU needs to improve in this area, students would like to see more online learning, and the provost is considering it. Dr. Bull pointed out that lack of online classes has been one of the reasons for a drop in DNP enrollment. Dr. Melchert shared that a report, which included a meta-analysis and review of online learning studies published by the U.S. Department of Education, indicated that students enrolled in online courses demonstrated higher achievement as related to learning outcomes than those enrolled in classroom courses. Dr. Wiener asked if he could send the report to all the members.

*Report from the Committee Chair: no report*

### **Unfinished Business:**

#### *Accelerated Bachelors/Master Degree Program*

The proposal has been reviewed by the Academic Planning Team and Dean's Council and an amended proposal was approved which Dr. Wiener shared with the UBGS members along with the rationale, key features. All engineering programs except CEEN have been using a similar system already and would not be required to change what they are already doing. Dr. Johnson shared that in his department there is some concern with undergrads and grads being subject to different grading standards for the same coursework, and especially with the 2/3 rule that would limit their thesis students to 8 credits instead of 12 in their senior year.

The 3.5 requirement was discussed and while some members agreed with it others thought it may cause a problem. It was asked if this proposal would apply to the Graduate School of Management (GSM) or the Law School. No definite answer was given. A suggestion was made to consider the proposal a guideline for developing new programs but there was concern that this could lead to a lot of different procedures across the university. Members in general felt that there are still too many questions to be able to vote on this today and it will be put on the next agenda. Mr. Pierce reminded the members that this would only be used by departments that choose to adopt it. Dr. Inderrieden will discuss the proposal with Dr. Simmons at his college in the meantime, and Dr. Wiener will discuss the issues (GPA, 2/3rds, double dipping) with the provost. If the UBGS approves the proposal at the next meeting it will go on to the Academic Senate.

### **New Business:**

*Development of UBGS Agenda for the year*

Dr. Wiener suggested the following topics for discussion this year:

- Academic Program Review Process
- Serving as Chair of Thesis or Dissertation Committees
- Transfer of Credits into Doctoral Programs
- Time Limits toward Degree Completion
- GSO Roles and Responsibilities Document
- Dismissal from Professional Programs due to Poor Performance in Clinical Courses – policy needs to be developed.
- Core Learning Objectives (revisit)

On the topic of core learning objectives, Dr. Inderrieden reminded the members that a grad student exit survey could be used towards this. The UBGS should see what kinds of questions could be used from the survey, or if they want to add some questions. There was some discussion on what kind of data can be used for submission. Dr. Guastello reminded the members that Tom Taft put together an excellent report last year that should be able to be used. The unedited results of the report seem to be common to what is found at other universities. However, the UAC suggested several revisions to the report. As Chair of the UAC, Vice Provost Peggy Bloom reviewed those committee recommendations when she was a guest at the March 26<sup>th</sup> UBGS meeting.

Some new members questioned what prompted the need for Core Learning Objectives. As discussion continued, differences of opinion were strong.

Members asked if the exit survey results could be brought to the UBGS. Mr. Laha also suggested polling current students for reasons why they chose MU.

All members agreed to the list of topics for agenda items this academic year.

*Pearson's Test of English*

There has been a request from the GSM to begin using this test in place of the TOEFL. It seems to be comparable and Dr. Wiener shared aspects that were included in this new test, such as an audible online component which would allow one to actually "hear" the person being tested speak. Some believe it will be an improvement over the TOEFL. It was discussed that the GSM could be a test site until other departments decided to use it.

The meeting adjourned at 3:24.