

UBGS MINUTES

To: UBGS Members
From: Bill Wiener
Date: 10-02-08
Re: University Board of Graduate Studies
Approved Minutes of the **October 2, 2008** UBGS Meeting

Present: Stephen Guastello, Robert Griffin, Kim Halula, Gerald Harris, Ed Inderrieden, John Karkheck, Stephen Merrill, Carrie Pruhs, Albert Rivero, Margaret Steele, Tom Taft, Bill Wiener

Excused: Kristin Haglund, Craig Pierce, Jay Caulfield, Tim Melchert, Michael Waxman

Also Present: Melody Baker (note taker)

The committee was called to order at 2:00 p.m. and the agenda was approved with the addition of one item.

Reports:

Graduate Dean –

Dr. Wiener applied for grant funding from the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) for a Responsible Conduct of Research project for Marquette. MU did not receive a grant, but CGS offered to make us an affiliate (conduct an RCR program without funding but with access to data at other universities). The provost has agreed to a proposed scaled back version of the program. This will involve five faculty and five grad students in the PFF program. A report will be made at the Faculty Research Institute next year.

Unfinished Business:

New Appointments to Joint Subcommittee –

Kristin Haglund, Michael Waxman, Stephen Merrill will serve this year on the joint subcommittee (with the UBUS) for program reviews.

New Business:

An INPR proposal was distributed at today's meeting. Members were asked to serve on a subcommittee to review this proposal. Gerald Harris, Stephen Guastello, Stephen Merrill volunteered.

Dr. Wiener took a few moments to explain the next agenda item. It has been discovered many other universities do have learning outcomes for their graduate programs. Due to the variety of programs, the departmental graduate outcomes will need to be looked at across the board for common elements. It is expected that this will be a relatively easy process. Examples of outcomes would be, the ability to critically assess the literature of a certain discipline. It also needs to be determined how the outcomes are measured.

Subcommittee on Core Graduate Student Learning Outcomes with Vice Provost Bloom –

Dr. Bloom asked the members to think about and discuss the topic of learning outcomes for graduate students. There are currently 6 at the undergraduate level. She asked

the members, are there measurable outcomes at the graduate level? Several handouts were distributed, including copies of Bloom's taxonomy. Dr. Bloom asked the members to think of a learning outcome statement: *Upon graduation from the ___ program, graduates are able to _____.*

Members were asked to identify three things that MU graduate students should be able to demonstrate upon graduation. Ideas from members:

- Demonstrate ability to apply appropriate research methods to address discipline related issues.
- Able to critically evaluate literature from their respective field.
- Apply critical thinking to solve challenges within the field of study.
- Show a continuous thread of ethical judgment from undergrad – grad.
- Utilize ethical decision making principles when conducting and designing research.
- Contribute via research to the theoretic knowledge base of discipline (master's/doctor's?)
- Demonstrate a high level of understanding of the place of his/her field in the broader academic cultural and social context.
- Maintain a commitment to socially responsible application of the skills mastered in graduate study.
- Perform statistical analysis to enable use of research tools of the discipline.
- Meet the standards of the relevant professional society in terms of knowledge and skills.
- Ability to fashion arguments orally and in writing.
- Appreciate the professional aspects of a discipline such as professional issues and research ethics.
- Display deep knowledge of current theories and concepts in ones discipline.
- Incorporate lifelong learning in professional careers.
- Communicate proficiently within ones professional field.
- Apply research based theory towards evidenced based practice.
- Ability to produce and defend innovative or creative products.
- Knowledge of the history of one's discipline and identify future directions.
- Recognize use of other's works and giving full recognition for their contributions in one's own works.

Some concern was expressed that a general, campus wide method of outcome measurement might be in conflict with outcomes already in place in some departments, outcomes that are considered necessary for their professional accrediting organization. Dr. Bloom explained that at the undergraduate level there is a common understanding of outcomes while at the graduate level every program is individually assessed. She is merely trying to explore what is occurring across the country, and what are the important and expected outcomes at Marquette.

Dr. Bloom asked if these outcomes would be for both master's and doctoral programs, or should there be separate outcomes. The members agreed that, yes, there should be separate outcomes.

Dr. Inderrieden asked if it was necessary to form a subcommittee of the UBGS members only. She said no, but it should be made up of people that you trust. He asked if it would be possible to aggregate things that have already been collected and Dr. Bloom said, yes.

Drs. Taft and Wiener agreed to continue to work on this project. Members were asked to reflect upon the items discussed at today's meeting and send the top five to Dr. Taft.

Computational Sciences Proposal – (The proposal was sent ahead of time to the members.)

Dr. Anne Clough and Dr. Peter Jones joined the meeting. Dr. Clough summarized the proposal to create an interdisciplinary program that will include PhD students. Dr. Wiener acknowledged the impressive work that the department has put into this proposal. Dr. Inderrieden agreed that the proposal was well done and includes an impressive group of experts. Dr. Jones did remind the members that for this to be successful it would take the support of the university in the area of teaching assistantships and the ability to add an external chair. While the department name will not change, the degrees offered will be PhD in Computational Science, MS in Computational Science.

Dr. Merrill presented the motions:

1. The University Board of Graduate Studies moves the establishment of a new specialization in Computational Sciences within the Ph.D. program in Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science.
2. The University Board of Graduate Studies moves the elimination of the current specializations of Algebra, Biomathematics, Logic and Foundations, and Statistics within the Ph.D. program in Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science.
3. The University Board of Graduate Studies moves the elimination of the M.S. specialization in Mathematics.
4. The University Board of Graduate Studies moves the modification of the M.S. specialization in Computer Science to become a specialization in Computational Sciences.

The motions were seconded, no discussion, a vote was taken and this proposal passed unanimously. This change will be effective fall 2009.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45pm.