University Board of Graduate Studies Minutes
of the 1/16/14 meeting


Also Present: Melody Baker (note taker), Kevin Gibson, Craig Pierce

Excused: Heather Hathaway,

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. and the agenda was approved.

Reports:

Graduate Dean -
Dr. Hossenlopp reported that she has been working with the Provost’s office on Enrollment Management issues, particularly in regard to strategies for growing enrollment, and revenue generation ideas. A system that would allow revenue sharing to departments when proposing programs is being considered.

Dr. Hossenlopp has also asked for an increase to financial aid and is determining costs to provide 5 years of funding for PhD students, and 3 years of support for students in STEM fields. She is also looking at what it would cost to get every program up to a 10% tuition discount.

Lastly, ORSP expects to be fully staffed again by mid-February.

Graduate Associate Dean –
Dr. Gibson reported on some improvements being made to the RWAR system. Also, the PFF program is considering new ideas which Dr. Gibson would like to present to members in the future. As far as student health insurance, there is no clear path yet.

Dr. Gibson asked Ms. Otero to report on the GSO: Ms. Otero reported that there were over 100 students at the fall GSO event. Also, the GSO is partnering with EOP to find opportunities for grad students to give back.

Graduate Assistant Dean –
Mr. Pierce reported that the 14th Dissertation Boot Camp was held last week and shared a recap of the program which was started in 2008. Three boot camps per year have been held for four years now. There have been 282 total participants with an average of 20 per camp, with about a 3% attrition rate. A written stat sheet also showed time to graduation and rates per department.

UBGS Chair – no report

Business:

INPR debrief –
Dr. Johnson asked if there were any new thoughts regarding the INPR program and shared a recent conversation he had with Dr. Gibson on this topic. Members agreed that the
methodology falls to the candidate’s committee. Dr. Gibson reported that the statement of progress form will be rewritten and discussed that the purpose of the form is mostly to keep the UBGS in the loop with how students are doing. Per the recent assessment, the UBGS is obligated to track progress of INPR students. A suggestion was made to use the doctoral planning form in progress assessment. Another suggestion was to formalize communication with INPR chairs as a means of tracking progress. It was also made clear that this is not oversight, merely progress tracking. Students with INPR proposals know they are designing hybrid programs, but how can the UBGS know where they end up after receiving their PhD? The UBGS will consider some tracking mechanisms. Members agreed with the proposed action plan.

Topics for the Joint Forum –

The four table topics used at last year’s forum, along with a summary of the comments was shared by Dr. Johnson who asked members to recommend topic ideas for this year.

It was suggested that a clear, succinct message is needed: bullet points of how we see research going, where we are, what our strengths are, where we envision going, along with a vision to increase funding. Summarizing strengths is important – people would be more supportive of programs that already have something going for them. Some feel that if funding is not available, why try anything new, but it was explained that the purpose of the budget cuts is to have a better reserve of funding, and also to gain funds for new initiatives. The forum is important because the voices of the faculty are very important.

Suggestions offered today:

- Generate feedback from students themselves, sharing how research has benefited them. Consider adding representatives of the GSO to the forum.
- Consider if the problem with MU not being seen as a research university is based on a lack of communication? Dr. Gibson is sending a link to RefWorks to members this afternoon so everyone can see the amount of papers generated.
  - Some people don’t see faculty as integrated teacher-scholars.
- Dr. Hossenlopp shared that most of the freshman and sophomore students in her honors class said they never heard their faculty talk in class about their research. Perhaps discussing their research would be a good way for faculty to start their class. Members agreed that we can’t underestimate the value of research to undergrads.
- Consider requiring a small lay abstract for all papers published, that can be shared with the greater community to promote a broader understanding of research.
- Should a Research 101 be required to help students become aware of the importance of research? Ms. Otero shared how useful a research class was to her.
- History and Dental have an online site with faculty research news for undergraduates.
- Theology has a newsletter but it’s not known if it goes to undergrads.
- Determine ways to get faculty involved in Undergraduate research (protected time).
- Invite OMC and Advancement to the forum. They may hear important things.
- Enhance the message that research enhances teaching, does not detract from it.
- Determine how to remove barriers that keep research from being done.

Dr. Johnson will share these ideas with COR.
Enrollment Management – next steps

Dr. Callahan will consider all plans and put together some initiatives. An Enrollment Manager may be hired. While applications are running behind last year, it is localized in several departments. Those departments will be contacted and monthly summaries will be submitted to Finance. Reallocation principles will be discussed next time.

Termination of Entrepreneurship Certificate –

A motion made and seconded to terminate this certificate. A vote was taken with unanimous approval.

Termination of all certificates in the Civil Engineering Program (attachments) –

Dr. Johnson explained there were no enrollments in any of these certificate programs: Construction Engineering and Management, Structural Design, Transportation, Water and Wastewater Treatment Processes, and Water Resources Engineering. A motion was made and seconded to terminate these certificates. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

It was mentioned that it may be a good idea to look at successful certificate programs (NURS, LAW, CPS) towards enrollment planning - mini presentations in UBGS on what works and what doesn’t.

The meeting adjourned at 3:08 pm.