UBGS MINUTES

To:         UBGS Members
From:   Jeanne Hossenlopp
Date:     1-19-12
Re:       University Board of Graduate Studies
           Approved Minutes of the January 19, 2012 UBGS Meeting

Present: Jay Caulfield, Ed Fallone, Robert Griffin, Stephen Guastello, Kim Halula, Jeanne
         Hossenlopp, Mike Johnson, Sarah Knox, Sarah Londo, Maureen O’Brien, Albert Rivero,
         Daniel Rowe
Excused:   Margaret Bull, Arthur Hefti, Ed Inderrieden
Also Present: Melody Baker (note taker), Tim Melchert, Craig Pierce

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. and the agenda was approved.

Reports:
Jeanne Hossenlopp, Dean –
Dr. Hossenlopp indicated that the assessment survey is being sent to programs and the
results will be shared with the UBGS at a future meeting. Follow-up meetings with each
program to discuss the enrollment baseline study data and how programs assess and track
quality indicators will begin soon.
Two graduate programs have applied for Graduate Assistantships in Areas of National
Needs (GAANN) grants recently. Dr. Hossenlopp described some of the differences between
these grants and programs supported by agencies such as NSF, in terms of matching funds.
The internal search for Associate Dean of the Graduate School is in process. This will
be a full time position with an initial appointment of three years. The UBGS was urged to think
of potential candidates.

Craig Pierce, Assistant Dean –
Mr. Pierce described the Transfusion Medicine joint program between MU and the
Blood Center. It was discovered that the HLC was not previously aware of this program and so
its first accreditation visit is scheduled for next week. Two reviewers will be on campus next
Monday and Tuesday.
The Graduate School’s ninth Dissertation Boot Camp was held last week with good
attendance. New this year, a doctoral student writing room has been designated in Raynor,
conference room D. All doctoral students were notified via email of this opportunity to meet
together and spend a focused time working on their dissertations.
Also new, grad student writing groups were established for the purpose of students
getting together and working on any written requirement (thesis, capstone, etc.). They must
commit to 3 hours a week for the first half of the semester. This group will also meet also in
Raynor, conference room D, and will be monitored by a writing center staff. Students will
report on progress regularly.

Robert Griffin, Chair – no report

New Business:
Strategic planning for the future of graduate programs (in preparation for Fr. Pilarz’ visit) -
Dr. Griffin and Dr. Hossenlopp will be condensing past notes on strategic planning and sending them to the members for future discussions. Today Dr. Griffin discussed possible topics for the meeting with Fr. Pilarz and advised that it would be helpful to establish key points ahead of time. Main themes from the past included:

- Commitment to research
- Carnegie rankings
- Public, alumni, and student awareness of excellence in grad program research, and recognition of quality – (MU is seen as a source of expert advice for local media, but not all faculty are in the expert’s directory) – a suggestion was made to have a link to professors in D2L and Dr. Caulfield shared that CPS will be piloting a program that gives undergrad students a link to professors when they sign up for a course. If this is successful it will be expanded to graduate students.
- Opportunities for graduate programs
- Inter-university collaboration

It was suggested to maximize the time with the president with three succinct goals, to give him goals and benchmarks he can embrace. Discussion can outline possible strategies to accomplish those goals and benchmarks.

Comments from members included:

Goals:
- Where do we want grad programs to be in 5 years, 10 years? That graduate education is integral to MU needs to be made clear. Tie the impact of strong graduate education on undergraduate and on tuition income. Many schools are now emphasizing the ability for undergrads to become involved in graduate research. Also, emphasize the importance of strong grad programs in retaining and recruiting faculty.
- The visibility of research and graduate education, internally and externally, should be a priority.
- Is it possible to get a count for how widespread the trend for increasing undergrad interest in research is? Many students consider this experience necessary for getting into grad school, and in many fields it is also a requirement to be competitive in the marketplace. Statistics on the percentage of students who go on to earn graduate degrees would be helpful.
- Make a national level standing our goal, rather than state, or Jesuit schools. Support this goal with demographics on undergraduate students. Look at whether students want to stay in the state, want to attend a Jesuit school, or are looking for the best programs nationally. Which goal is the best fit strategically for our university? It was pointed out that US News considers MU a national university and we are well ranked. Where else are applicants to MU applying? Dr. Hossenlopp advised that it differs widely from one program to another. Members were asked how the draw of students (where they are from) for grad programs vary? In going around the room, some programs get 50% students from in state; some get more international students and struggle to retain US students (some differences between part time and full time students); some programs have difficulty getting US applicants; some have a large percentage of local students in one program, with more out of state applicants in another program; one MS programs attracts students from the Midwest, while the doctoral students are national; in another program about 80% of students are part time with only a handful of international students; other programs are seeing an increase in international students; and certain programs seem to have pipelines either from
particular universities, or particular countries. We need to define what “from where” is meant – where the student is from originally, where they are coming from with their Master’s, or what country they are coming from.

- Dr. Hossenlopp pointed out that there is a challenge in recruiting a more diverse national student body. Some questions to think about: How do we better utilize and connect with our alumni? Do employers recognize a Marquette degree nationally? Do undergrads see Marquette master’s degrees as a stepping stone to either a career, or a PhD?