UBGS MINUTES

To: UBGS Members
From: Jeanne Hossenlopp
Date: 2-16-12
Re: University Board of Graduate Studies
Approved Minutes of the February 16, 2012 UBGS Meeting

Present: Robert Griffin, Jeanne Hossenlopp, Craig Pierce, Margaret Bull, Tim Melchert, Arthur Hefti, Jay Caulfield, Ed Inderrieden, Michael Johnson, Sarah Knox, Al Rivero, Daniel Rowe, Stephen Gaustello

Excused: Maureen O’Brien, Ed Fallone, Kim Halula

Also Present: Erin Fox (note taker)

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. and the agenda was approved. Amendment minutes from January 19, 2012: Maureen O’Brien was in attendance, though the minutes did not reflect it. Otherwise, minutes approved.

Reports:

Report from the Graduate Dean
Dr. Hossenlopp reported that the survey of global assessment outcomes is in the hands of the DGS’s. Sharon Ronco is looking for an update.

Dr. Hossenlopp will be meeting with departments to discuss the enrollment baseline data as well as questions regarding financial aid and program quality measures, developed in collaboration with UBGS.

The Healthcare Innovation meeting had about 40 attendees. One theme was the importance of prevention and it was asked if there should be a graduate (master’s level) program on prevention.

Stipend increases for three graduate programs were made for FY13 based on prior recommendations from the Yardley review. A major budget gap in tuition scholarship remains.

Report from the Graduate Assistant Dean
As part of data collection for the HLC reaffirmation process, Mr. Pierce was asked what data is collected on time to completion, attrition, etc. Data collection at the doctoral level is done well, but a weakness is that nothing is done with the information. He proposed that the data be brought to the UBGS once a year. Currently, we do not do any data collection for the master’s level by the Graduated School, although departments may do that themselves.

Mr. Pierce also brought up that MU has an agreement with GE (EECE, COMP, and MEEN) Edison program (Healthcare systems, Healthcare software, Aviation Software). Credit is granted for those taking the A course at GE, and we have a number of the GE staff who are adjuncts at MU. There is an opportunity to expand this program in a number of ways. We could grant credit for the B course, but this could lead to granting up to 12 credits. Some of these temporary students continue into degree status. Some discussion on this topic followed.
Report from the Committee Chair
Dr. Griffin reported that Fr. Burch is tracking down INPR graduates to include in the assessment data. Dr. Hossenlopp added that he is also tracking down current employment and selected professional data for past Schmidt and Raynor Fellows.

New Business:
Full-Time Status Requirement for Financial Aid
Mr. Pierce explained that the Graduate School has a standing requirement in that in order to receive financial aid a student must be full-time. Now with scholarship credits given out – sometimes when students are working and going to school part-time, it does not make sense. In the past Tom Marek has made exceptions on a case-by-case basis, but lately, he has been making a lot of exceptions. Should we remove the requirement for tuition credit recipients (not TA or RA students) to remain full-time? This would open up the eligibility for these tuition credits, allowing departments to plan more strategically for these credits.

A motion was made to remove the requirement as stated above and seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Should specializations continue to be offered when there is an option for an identical certificate?
Dr. Hossenlopp explained that the College of Professional Studies has been working on a proposal for a new certificate, expected to come to the UBGS in March. If a stand-alone certificate is introduced, it would require dealing with gainful employment and other issues. Currently, the department offers a specialization within the master’s that is the same topic as the proposed certificate.

A lengthy discussion followed and in the end, Dr. Hossenlopp stated that the options are that we,
1) Stay the way we are – able to earn a specialization and a certificate in the same topic, or
2) Explore having a footnote that states that the specialization is “satisfied through the certificate”, or
3) Force students to choose one or the other, or
4) Do away with the specialization.

The UBGS will require further discussion on this topic with the registrar. Dr. Hossenlopp asked members to think about what role certificates play in our overall mix of graduate education.

Unfinished Business:
Strategic planning for the future of graduate programs (in preparation for Fr. Pilarz’ visit).
Dr. Hossenlopp shared that while Fr. Pilarz does wish to meet with the UBGS it has been difficult to confirm a date for this semester. In the meantime, the UBGS needs to come up with discussion topics and provide Fr. Pilarz with a document ahead of time. Dr. Griffin recommended discussing goals for graduate education – 5 and 10 years down the road. What are the benchmarks for reaching those goals? And what are the strategies for reaching those goals? Based on minutes from the past three years, Dr. Griffin found some topics and sorted these by theme:
- University vision, planning, and support for the growth and quality of graduate education at Marquette
- Relationships with community, student, alumni
- Role of research in graduate education

Previous discussion had suggested the UBGS have a written document with a preamble stating that graduate education is integral to MU, that 1/3 of MU’s students are graduate-level, graduate students
are important for retaining and recruiting faculty members, and graduate students are integral to educating undergraduates. Next, goals should be stated that are inclusive (including professional programs). While some programs may not contribute to the Carnegie classification, they do contribute to society. All the different roles that graduate education plays should be included. One theme could be developed about how graduate education enriches the MU community (using community in a very broad sense to include alumni), and how we see this vision moving us forward. The academic diversity of graduate school should also be pointed out. Dr. Hossenlopp agreed to draft a document for the UBGS to start working with.

Finally, an example was raised of a program that plans to create a website indicating initial placement and current employment of graduates as a tool to inform prospective students. Dr. Hossenlopp agreed that is a good practice and something she’d like to see more programs doing.

New Business:

Mr. Pierce shared that a recent HLC visit for the transfusion medicine (TRME) program went very well. The Blood Center has an international reputation with impressive graduates.

The meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.