University Board of Graduate Studies Minutes
of the 4/3/14 meeting

Present: Jay Caulfield, Ana Garner, Robert Griffin, Kim Halula, Jeanne Hossenlopp, John Jentz, Mike Johnson, Alison Julien, Kelsey Otero, Daniel Rowe

Also Present: Melody Baker (note taker), Kevin Gibson, Carrie Pruhs, Gary Meyer, Bob Deahl, Eva Soeka


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

Reports:

Graduate Dean –

While attending the annual AJCU Graduate Deans meeting recently, Dr. Hossenlopp observed that enrollment and budget issues are common. MU will be hosting this meeting next year and Dr. Hossenlopp will be meeting with Fr. Sheeran about AJCU and cross-dialogue while she is in Washington DC next month.

Dr. Hossenlopp also reported that enrollment planning is moving along and that things are still being prioritized.

Graduate Associate Dean – no report

Graduate Assistant Dean – absent

UBGS Chair –

Dr. Johnson reported that the Faculty Forum was well attended and a lot of ideas were generated. He expects to get together with Advancement & OMC and get them on the agenda for next month.

Business:

Presentation - Academic Integrity: New Directions for Undergraduate Education- Dr. Gary Meyer, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Programs and Teaching

Dr. Meyer explained that the process began five years ago to write a more proactive statement regarding academic integrity, and the proposal of an honor code. Since then, recommendations were made to the provost in 2011, a steering committee was charged to implement recommendations in January 2013, and in spring 2014 three subcommittees will be formed: 1) Honor Code, 2) Education, and 3) Honor Council. Dr. Meyer went on to explain the functions and purpose of these three areas. He also discussed the educational materials that will be used, including a tutorial, and then asked members for their thoughts.

Dr. Hossenlopp pointed out that #3 under researchers is incomplete and leaves out some types of research, such as radioisotopes. Ms. Otero also pointed out that because many grad students teach they should be informed about this document. Dr. Gibson asked if the
educational and restorative aspects of this could be highlighted, and also pointed out that this means the faculty will not have to handle issue of academic integrity alone.

Dr. Meyer asked the UBGS for their endorsement of this statement and noted the statement will be placed in the undergraduate bulletin and student handbook. Members suggested it could also go in the graduate bulletin.

In UBGS discussion it was agreed that the section on researchers could be more complete and there was some concern expressed about faculty implementation. In response to a question of whether the Dental School and Law School should be left out of this, it was pointed out that the professional schools have their own more rigid, individual and profession-specific honor codes, rules, and regulations.

A motion was made and seconded for the UBGS to endorse the statement. A vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously, 8 - 0. The UBGS will endorse the statement with the recommendations discussed regarding research.

College of Professional Studies Program Closures: Criminal Justice Administration certificate/track, and Dispute Resolution certificate and degree - Dr. Bob Deahl and Dr. Eva Soeka

Dr. Deahl began by explaining the reason for ending these programs. Dr. Soeka went on to explain the history of the programs. Due in part to the recession and discontinuation of corporate funding of tuition, enrollment began to drop off to the point that there were not enough students to begin classes, and change does not seem likely within the next two years. Dr. Soeka expressed her concern that students currently completing the Dispute Resolution program should be confident that the value of their degree, and the good reputation that the program has earned nationwide, will be sustained in the event that things change in the future and this program is brought back.

Members expressed concern for how quickly such a reputable program is closing, and frustration that no other options are being offered. Dr. Soeka explained that the program started as an independent program with an independent budget, not reporting to any college, but then it was placed in the College of Professional Studies and the budget was reduced at that time. If these programs end, the joint program with the Law School would also have to end. Dr. Deahl made it clear that this was not something they were asked to do, just a result of trying to work within budget limitations.

Dr. Caulfield addressed the closure of the Criminal Justice Administration, explaining that enrollment has been at a steady decline, there is internal conflict about whether MU should be involved in criminal justice courses, reduced budgets of police departments means less tuition help, there is competition with others schools offering these courses. The teach out of remaining students is projected for Dec 2014.

In continued discussion members expressed concern about ending a program (DIRS) that has community outreach, is interdisciplinary, and has given MU a place of prominence. The public ramifications may be negative. It was pointed out that the CoPS program and Law School Dispute Resolution program, are separate programs, serving different constituents. While the Law Schools program is aimed at law students, the CoPS program was suited for people who are not lawyers working in various corporate organizations.
Members discussed what the UBGS recommendation should be. Comments included:
Consider a new home in a different college for the program; the proposal is lacking an exit strategy; take into consideration the negative impact to MU of this becoming public news. If this interdisciplinary program has been successful up until this year, why were the marketing funds pulled?

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal to terminate the Criminal Justice Administration program. A vote was taken with the following results: 1 abstain, 7 approve.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal to terminate the Dispute Resolution certificate and degree program. A vote was taken with the following results: 1 abstain, 7 against.

Members continued a discussion of recommendations they could make:
- Since employer funding for students has dried up in the sectors where past students had come from, it would be necessary to reconfigure the program to attract new constituents.
- Decouple the program from the Dispute Resolution center – allowing high profile conferences and continuing education to go on.
- Encourage working with the new president to continue the program in either its current or a modified form.
- Have a conversation with the Law School to see if there is a way to leverage the two programs.
- Set a time limit of within the next year to produce results.

It was pointed out that applications for Dispute Resolution have been on hold since February 3, 2014. In effect the program is on hiatus, but students are needed to continue. Members agree that even though they have voted not to close the Dispute Resolution program they will recommend that an effort be made to reconfigure and/or rehouse the program, to work with the new president on a solution to save this program and avoid negative press, and, in recognition of budget limitations, to set a time limit on when this should be accomplished.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the recommendation. A vote was taken with the following results: 1 abstain, 7 approve.
Dr. Johnson will contact Dr. Deahl and explain the board’s decision.

UBGS Procedures – Dr. Johnson asked everyone to review and be prepared to approve next month.

UBGS Officers for next year – Dr. Johnson will be on sabbatical, and Dr. Halula will be stepping out of the UBGS due to new responsibilities. Dr. Rowe is willing to serve (not as chair), and Dr. Hathaway was recommended. Dr. Johnson will contact Dr. Hathaway and a vote will be taken next month.

INPR – proposed changes – this will be moved to the May agenda.
Faculty Forum – this will be moved to the May agenda.

Lastly, Ms. Otero reported that over 100 people attended the last GSO social. She invited the UBGS members to attend the final event for this term on April 25th, 5 – 7pm, at Caffrey’s.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm.