UBGS MINUTES

To: UBGS Members
From: Jeanne Hossenlopp
Date: 4-14-11
Re: University Board of Graduate Studies
Approved Minutes of the April 14, 2011 UBGS Meeting

Present: Margaret Bull, Jay Caulfield, Ed Fallone, Kanoe Fish, Robert Griffin, Stephen Guastello, Kim Halula, Arthur Hefti, Jeanne Hossenlopp, Mike Johnson, Sarah Knox, Stephen Merrill, James South
Excused: Ed Inderrieden, Albert Rivero
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:

Report from the Graduate Dean –
Dr. Hossenlopp reported that the diversity issue in regard to recruiting and enrollment will be discussed in May. Mr. Pierce added that enrollment currently is up 17%, and applications are up 46%. A final report will include information that the Provost will use to make a presentation to the Board of Trustees in May.

A CGS survey finds MU up 26% with applications from international students, nationally it’s 9%. Dr. Hossenlopp will try to get more detailed information on what this includes.

Report from the Graduate Assistant Dean –
Mr. Pierce reported that he hopes to get the enrollment baseline report (5 years of trends in enrollment, matriculation, graduation, financial aid) out to departments soon, and will present it to the UBGS in May.

Mr. Pierce also requested approval for an INPR student’s replacement of a retiring committee member. He has determined the replacement meets all of the qualifications. The members approved.

Report from the Committee Chair –
Dr. Griffin reported the revision of Graduate Learning Outcomes was submitted to Dr. Gary Meyer and he hopes to get the information back in time for the May meeting. He also asked members to think of topics for next year’s agenda before the May meeting.

Unfinished Business:
Joint UBUS/UBGS Subcommittee on Academic Integrity –
Dr. Melchert reported that since the current academic dishonesty policy was introduced in 2006 it has become necessary, at the request of the provost, to update the policy and implement other procedures to increase academic integrity. (A document describing the purpose and issues that needed addressing was sent to the members ahead of
time.) A joint subcommittee of the UBGS and UBUS will make recommendations. It is expected that there will be active student involvement. A comment was made that it may be helpful to have a general campus-wide code of honor rather than have policies that are departmentalized. Some would like to see a more holistic approach.

**Interdisciplinary Ph.D. (INPR)** – A copy of the INPR guidelines including the revisions recommended at the last meeting was shared with the members ahead of time. The changes had been approved at the March meeting and were found to be satisfactory to the members. It was noted that the date on the footnote needs to be updated as well. Also, Dr. Hossenlopp recommended changing the header on page 9 to *Research Compliance*.

**Satisfactory Academic Progress** –

a. Repeat of failed course  
b. How F grades are calculated into cumulative GPA  
c. When to restart cumulative GPA and credit totals

Mr. Pierce explained how the above issues will affect Federal Financial Aid. While (a) is not much of an issue at MU’s graduate level, (b) is, and it is necessary to define cumulative GPA.

There was some discussion of when totals for cumulative GPA’s start. The 5 year programs in engineering and direct entry nursing further complicates this. Nursing has discussed repeat courses at length and most faculty lean towards not counting the lesser grade if a course is retaken for a better grade. A survey of the DGS’s on this topic generated similar responses as well as opinion that the implications are somewhat different for graduate students. It was pointed out that if repeating a course is a repetitive problem, it has to be handed differently. The importance of mentoring was discussed, and is an approach that the Dental School uses. It was also pointed out that grading is done differently across schools.

Argument was also made for why the first semester may be more difficult for some students. A suggestion was made to look at the numbers of students who left the university after getting an F grade. While some members feel defining the goal of the Graduate School could be useful in this discussion, there was also opinion that the faculty need to weigh in heavily on this topic before the UBGS comments on it. Others wonder if this is a big enough issue to even take to the faculty. Another opinion is that the UBGS needs to start to create a vision of a unified cohesive decision or decide the individual schools are in charge of their own policies.

The current policy is to keep both grades of a repeated course and it is possible to just keep the current policy; it’s what faculty are used to. In the meantime, data will be gathered for the next conversation on this topic.

It was recommended to make the mission of Graduate School a topic for next year.

**Status report on current INPR students** –  
Mr. Pierce shared an update on the progress of currently enrolled INPR students.
Exit Surveys –

Mr. Pierce explained that he will be basing aggregates on the number of graduates rather than the number of respondents. Though some organization of the data is needed, he hopes by mid-summer to have a sufficient set of data to be able to send the results out. A request was made to copy the DGS’s on survey requests so they can help remind students. It was also recommended to send a pre-notice a few days ahead of the survey request.

New Business:

In closing, Dr. Griffin shared that he will be preparing the annual report of the UBGS for the Academic Senate in May. He will distribute the report to the members for input before submitting it to the AS. The meeting adjourned at 3:33pm.