UBGS MINUTES

To: UBGS Members
From: Jeanne Hossenlopp
Date: 9-1-11
Re: University Board of Graduate Studies
Approved Minutes of the September 1, 2011 UBGS Meeting

Excused: Sarah Londo
Also Present: Melody Baker (note taker), Erin Fox, Tim Melchert, Craig Pierce, Carrie Pruhs, Erik Uglan (COMM), Matt Parlow (LAW), Mike Switzenbaum (ENGI)

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. and the agenda was approved. Introductions were made among the members.

Reports:

Dean
Dr. Hossenlopp reported that the local graduate deans are still meeting regularly and will be discussing bioinformatics soon. She also announced the new CTSI Health Sciences program has started, with 3 new Ph.D. students enrolled.

UBGS Chair
The March 15th meeting is scheduled during spring break. It was discussed and decided to move it to the Thursday before.

Academic Integrity Subcommittee Final Report
The report was shared with the members ahead of time. Dr. Melchert reminded the board that the UBGS and UBUS were charged last year with addressing the issue of academic integrity together. Their efforts culminated in this report, with the intention to promote integrity and prevent problems in response to a rising concern. Dr. Melchert briefly discussed the five general recommendations included in the report for the university’s consideration and the rationale for those recommendations and said the joint committee was unanimously in favor of the recommendations.

Dr. Melchert recommends making a proposal to the Academic Senate after the board members discuss the report at next month’s meeting. A member also recommended finding out from the senate president who would carry the remaining work on this forward in the event that the Academic Senate accepts a proposal. Some members believe a new ad hoc committee of the Academic Senate could be formed to handle this issue.

A question of how a code of conduct deters dishonesty was raised. Members agreed that enforcement is integral to success. Dr. Melchert said the code of conduct would include sanctions. It was also discussed that a representative government that included students would need to be considered.

Another member recommended soliciting opinions from the DGS’s and Dr. Melchert said he would do that. A couple of word-smithing changes were recommended on the document. This will appear on the October agenda for further discussion and a vote.
Continuing Business:

UBGS Priorities for 2011-12: From last spring’s meeting:

- Mission of graduate education at Marquette
- Relationship between UBGS and DGSs
- Graduate learning outcomes (again, still)
- Diversity issues on recruitment, retention, and enrollment
- Cooperation between Milwaukee area graduate programs
- Academic Integrity
- Inviting Fr. Pilarz to meet with the UBGS

Dr. Griffin asked if anyone wanted to comment or add to these topics. There was opinion that if a strategic plan to promote and grow graduate education is written it should be done early in the new president’s term. Dr. Hossenlopp shared that she will be discussing with each program individually their needs and vision. Baseline enrollment data, along with a context for the data, should also be included.

A document outlining important issues would be useful when inviting Fr. Pilarz to a UBGS meeting. An effort will be made to find a date that Fr. Pilarz can meet with the UBGS. One of the above topics that members recommended for discussion with the president: Diversity issues on recruitment, retention, and enrollment and how graduate education is related. Members would also like to hear Fr. Pilarz’ view on what the mission of MU graduate education is, and what his vision is.

The Carnegie ranking was mentioned and Dr. Hossenlopp asked that it be a topic on the next agenda.

Mr. Pierce suggested the topic of INPR data, including employment outcomes for graduates (did they end up doing what they intended?). About 27 students have graduated since this program started.

Assessment

A draft of Graduate Student Core Learning Outcomes had been sent to members ahead of time. Dr. Griffin stated another document, including a response from Dr. Gary Meyer will be sent to members soon. There was some discussion about data and tasks that would eventually be required. Any changes in outcomes would need to go back to the DGS’s at which time it should also be asked how the outcomes integrate with their programs’ expectations. It was recommended to get input from the new assessment director before making more changes.

New Business:

Communication Program ENDING: Certificate in Professional Communication

Dr. Eric Ugland from the College of Communication explained why this program is ending, the main reason being that there has not been enough student interest. There are currently no students in the program, and it is no longer advertised.

NEW Law School Certificate Programs: Alternative Dispute Resolution, Litigation

Prof. Matt Parlow from the Law School joined the meeting and explained the rationale and need for these programs. He pointed out that these are very rigorous certificate requirements. Asked if students in the Dispute Resolution program would get this certificate from the Law School, rather than through the Graduate School, Prof. Parlow said this certificate
is geared specifically for lawyers working in dispute resolution and intended only for Law School students.

Another member asked what “alternative” meant and Prof. Parlow explained it means an alternative to litigation, and is a common law school term. This term may also distinguish it from the Dispute Resolution program. Asked how a certificate in litigation differs from what is typically learned about the subject in Law School, Prof. Parlow answered that it is an in-depth analysis for people who specifically want to be litigators.

Prof. Parlow explained that the certificates also add to the school’s reputation and branding. Prof. Fallone added that both of these certificates add to strengths that the MU Law School is already known for. Lastly, it was confirmed that these programs are intended for currently enrolled students and would not be open to already practicing lawyers. Practicing lawyers or others not enrolled in the Law School would be encouraged to pursue the Graduate School Dispute Resolution certificate which is seen as complementary to the Law School Certificate.


Dr. Mike Switzenbaum joined the meeting and explained why this program and certificates were being discontinued. An internal review determined the program was suffering and would need resources to be sustained and because there is no industrial focus in Mechanical Engineering it was agreed it would be best to end it. Students currently enrolled in the master's program are being given the opportunity to complete it in two years (from December). No students are in the certificate programs, no new students are being accepted, but the certificates are being left open in the event a student is unable to finish in the two years and wants to opt for the certificate. The non-degree students in the master’s program were conditionally accepted for the degree, with the agreement they would complete it in 2 years. A signed agreement on their part eliminates the 6 year to completion policy in this case.

A motion was made and seconded to vote on the program changes:

Certificate in Professional Communication – The board voted unanimously to end the certificate.


Certificate in Alternative Dispute Resolution, Certificate in Litigation – The board voted unanimously to approve.

The Law School certificates will go to the Academic Planning Team before going on to Academic Senate.

The meeting adjourned at 3:42pm