University Board of Graduate Studies Minutes
of the 10/04/12 meeting

Present: Kim Halula, Jeanne Hossenlopp, Ed Inderrieden, Mike Johnson, Maureen O’Brien, Albert Rivero, Daniel Rowe, Doris Walker-Dalhouse, Michael Waxman

Also Present: Melody Baker (note taker), Kevin Gibson


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

Reports:

Graduate Dean –

Dr. Hossenlopp announced that two departments have received GAANN fellowships: Biology and Electrical and Computer Engineering.

A faculty panel on research was held with University Advancement this morning and chaired by Kathy Durben (ORSP).

Members at yesterday’s Committee on Research (COR) discussed holding an event with UBGs to have conversations with faculty on topics that would contribute towards strategic planning. The deans may also sponsor a similar event. It was also noted that more graduate student participation is needed at the strategic planning conversations.

Graduate Associate Dean –

Dr. Gibson shared a list of initiatives he has been working on, along with some graduate school activities currently taking place. One initiative is for a graduate student teaching award. While a few departments do this in their own area, Dr. Gibson would like to come up with a university wide model and request nominees for the award from the colleges. A small fund is available for this award – but it’s unknown if this would count against their financial aid.

It was also noted that the Midwest Association of Graduate Schools gives awards but MU has not sent nominations.

Student conference travel awards will be getting posted to the webpage soon.

Intangible Asset Valuation, in relation to the value of graduate education, is something that Dr. Gibson is considering. Finance is looking at the grad school now due to lower enrollments and what the budget implications may be. Graduate programs add to institutional prestige, attract faculty, and promote research productivity. Many graduate students teach classes. If it wasn’t for them, what would it cost MU to maintain that level of teaching?

Lastly, Dr. Gibson reported on the activities of the GSO and PFF and announced an upcoming seminar on the Responsible Conduct of Research, to be held November 8 and 9.

UBGS Chair –

Dr. Johnson asked if any prep work was necessary prior to the dinner meeting with Fr. Pilarz on November 14th. It was recommended to gather short stories and photos (in labs, out in the community, Trinity fellows, etc.). Members agreed to work on this at the next meeting.
The UBGS Sharepoint site is set up – some documents have been posted there. It has yet to be decided where the “suggestion box” will be located.

Academic integrity may be a topic for the UBGS again. Dr. Johnson will follow up on this.

Lastly Dr. Johnson let the members know that he has spoken with Doug Lobner about scheduling some collaborative events with the COR.

Business:
Should we offer Graduate School sponsored awards for graduate student research and teaching excellence?

There was general agreement among members that it is a good idea to offer an award at the university level. This not only draws positive attention to MU, but also benefits the students resume. Dr. Gibson will find out how many departments currently have awards, and draft a description of the new award.

It may be more difficult to evaluate students for a research award than a teaching award. A recommendation was made to look at the rubrics used for Schmitt applications. Dr. Hossenlopp suggested grouping a smaller amount of awards by discipline.

Interdisciplinary Ph.D. program assessment

The subcommittee has a scheduled meeting and will present at the next UBGS meeting.

Discussion with Dr. William Welburn, Associate Provost for Diversity and Inclusion, and Dr. Stephanie Russell, Vice President for Mission and Ministry

Drs. Welburn and Russell began by sharing what their primary responsibilities are. Dr. Welburn mentioned that he has worked in graduate schools at two different institutions. At MU his focus is on diversity, and how diversity relates to scholarship, research, and relationships within and without the university.

Dr. Russell shared that the office of Mission and Ministry is here as a support unit for students, faculty, and staff, and described what is offered through that office. Additionally, there is an administrative component, and a developmental focus. Mission comes to bear on many aspects of the university – research, motives, purpose.

A member asked Dr. Welburn – what does the world look like in 10 years? Dr. Welburn responded that because it is logical that there is increasing diversity within the general population, sometime in the future there will be no ethnic majority. It remains to be seen how this will be reflected in the campus setting, since there would still be issues of economics, education, etc. affecting certain populations. The will of an institution can also decide what drives change. It also remains to be seen how the gender majority will shift. Changing international trends were also discussed, along with whether it is viable to build relationships with diverse local schools, to attract a diverse student population, while upholding Catholic identity.

A member asked what level of discussion includes the graduate student population in these conversations. There have been questions raised of how to make chaplains more available to grad students, and how grad students can be included in developmental offerings. It was also discussed that deliberately creating community for grad students, i.e. – housing, proximity is important.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.