UBGS MINUTES

To: UBGs Members
From: Jeanne Hossenlopp
Date: 10-6-11
Re: University Board of Graduate Studies
Approved Minutes of the October 6, 2011 UBGS Meeting

Excused: Margaret Bull, Craig Pierce
Also Present: Melody Baker (note taker), Tim Melchert, Sharon Ronco (Assessment), Matt Parlow (Law)

The meeting was called to order at 2:06 p.m. and the agenda was approved.

Reports:
Dean of the Graduate School –

Dr. Hossenlopp reported the number of grad students is down from the previous year and some programs are seeing deferrals. A question was asked about the availability of scholarship aid for grad students. Right now only assistantships and limited allocations for tuition scholarships are available. Dr. Hossenlopp has put in a request for additional dollars to make up for a shortfall in funding the current tuition scholarships.

New Business:
Carnegie Ranking –

Dr. Hossenlopp discussed the current Carnegie ranking for Marquette University and explained changes that were made to the ranking system. MU is currently in a lower ranking than it was previously, but is close to the next rank. Areas that could make the difference for MU are: doing a better job of reporting research expenditures and numbers of assistantships and support staff to NSF, increasing external support in non-STEM areas, and increasing PhD’s in targeted areas, especially STEM areas.

A suggestion was made to look at schools ranked above MU and find out what MU would need to do to compete with these peers. Dr. Hossenlopp has already done some research into peer schools to create benchmarks.

Members wonder how much financially MU is willing to contribute to help make a difference, and if there is a goal beyond just bumping up into the next rank? Dr. Hossenlopp said that would be a minimum goal. Members agreed that just making it over the threshold is not sufficient, since that is likely a moving target.

It was discussed that differing levels of stipends are common among universities, and it should be a goal of the UBGs to set benchmarks. Members asked about working with Advancement and Dr. Hossenlopp recommended inviting them to a future meeting.

Assessment Discussion with Dr. Sharron Ronco, Assessment Director

Dr. Ronco, MU’s new assessment director, was introduced to the members. She commented that the existing preamble for Graduate Student Core Learning Outcomes doesn’t really tie with the outcomes, although she thought the document was basically well written. Dr.
Inderrieden, who was the chair at the time this was written, explained the history of the document and the requirements the UBGS were asked to meet at the time.

Dr. Hossenlopp had to leave at this juncture for another meeting. A lengthy discussion regarding the document followed and Dr. Ronco said that while there is a need to have a statement of expectations for graduate students, this document could be kept general and it would be up to individual programs to write discipline specific assessments.

It was discussed by what mechanism this document would be incorporated into the individual units. Dr. Halula recalled that in the past the Assessment Committee would make recommendations, but not enforce. It would be up to each program to decide whether its own outcomes are in line with this document.

Members agreed the document would be revised again based on today’s discussion and with feedback from the departments.

There was some discussion regarding Learning Outcome 3 and how it can be practically assessed. It was agreed the outcome could be written to assess whether the student learned ethical guidelines based on the requirements of a specific department.

Dr. Ronco asked for completion of the revised document before the end of November. There was some discussion about what changes to make and it was decided that the preamble was not necessary. The members will discuss changes at the November 10th meeting and a draft will be sent to Dr. Ronco by mid-November. In the meantime she will look at the learning outcomes of individual programs to see if this document would be compatible with them.

**Unfinished Business:**

*Academic Integrity Subcommittee Final Report –*

A motion was made to approve the report and seconded. A vote was taken and it was unanimously in support of approval.

*Review minor changes made to proposed law school certificates – (This was moved to the top of the agenda.)*

The document, with changes recommended by the Academic Planning Team, was sent to the committee ahead of time. Prof. Parlow joined the meeting in case any members had questions but there were none. A motion was made to approve the changes and seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 3:47pm.