University Board of Graduate Studies Minutes
of the 11/1/12 meeting


Also Present:  Melody Baker (note taker), Craig Pierce

Excused: Doris Walker-Dalhouse, Ed Inderrieden, Stephen Saunders

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

Reports:

Graduate Dean –
Dr. Hossenlopp reported that there has been a decrease in graduate enrollment this fall which is reflected in a decrease in both numbers of students and credit hours taken. Reasons are being investigated, but this has been a national trend due to the recession. It has caused an issue with the office of finance and their budget projections. A top priority is figuring out how to still be able to offer financial aid. A member asked if any consideration has been given to not raising the tuition so much for graduate programs. In the College of Nursing, the tuition is not competitive with similar programs at other institutions in the area.

Graduate Assistant Dean -
Mr. Pierce continued the discussion by sharing some projected enrollment figures by college, stating another decrease is expected for next fall. The speculation is that it may be due to a shift in demographics, loss of company reimbursement, or increased competition in the area. Online courses offered by other reputable schools could also play a part. While applications are up, admissions are down, and this could be a quality indicator that departments are only selecting the best applicants. Departments need to take more ownership in the size of their programs. In looking at some of the data there appears to be a correlation between the numbers of students enrolled and the number of tuition credits offered. Dr. Johnson asked if it could be determined if enrollment could be correlated with research grants, and what they contribute to student enrollment. Mr. Pierce is waiting to receive data on that now. There was some discussion on what types of grants contribute to grad student enrollment and retention.

UBGS Chair –
Dr. Johnson commented that a strategic planning session with the Committee on Research (COR) is in the works. The logistics are being worked out. Stephanie Russell also contacted him to suggest getting together with grad students for a one-time “disruptive” discussion by inviting staff from Mission and Ministry and grad students for a conversation at the next UBGS meeting.

Dr. Johnson also contacted the Marketing and Communication department which has offered to make graphics on file from view books available to the UBGS for their use.
**Business:**

*Interdisciplinary Ph.D. program assessment –*

A subcommittee comprised of Drs. Hefti, Halula, and Griffin worked together to develop the INPR assessment plan document. Dr. Hefti explained the document that was distributed to members today. Dr. Johnson shared that Assessment Director, Sharon Ronco, commented that the document is impressively comprehensive, but also advised that it would be good to flesh out the details of assessment procedures.

During discussion it was asked if *university teaching* and *professional presentation* are both necessary as an outcome under Dissertation Work? Dr. Hossenlopp questioned whether diversity could really be used as an outcome, especially if only applicants are being looked at. It would be considered more of a program outcome than a student outcome.

The subcommittee will meet again and incorporate suggestions made by UBGS members (members should send ideas directly to Dr. Hefti). Dr. Johnson recommended having a mechanism to report figures, rubrics.

During a discussion on the INPR program, a suggestion was made to consider having an independent person at the doctoral exam. It was also asked, who is responsible for implementing the INPR program once a student has started? The qualifying exam? The defense? Approval for changes in committee members? Dr. Johnson suggested a UBGS member could be the program coordinator for the INPR. This could be a new officer position. There was other opinion that the committee as a whole could make decisions rather than a single person. It was suggested that the associate dean, also an ex-officio UBGS member, could serve this role.

Members see it as an issue that the UBGS does not have knowledge of what INPR students are doing, when program changes are made, or when degrees are earned. A comment was made that there is a disconnect between students who want to do interdisciplinary research and the goal of interdisciplinary work on campus.

Putting the committee together is the most difficult part of getting started on an INPR. It was brought up that it would be useful to have a directory listing of faculty that are qualified and willing to serve on a dissertation committee, to aid INPR students. There was one suggestion that UBGS members could facilitate in finding a dissertation committee. Dr. Johnson recommends taking a close look at the program and will put it on the next agenda. In the meantime, electronic copies of the INPR assessment will be sent to members.

*Master's Credits Counting for Ph.D.* –

Mr. Pierce explained the document sent out on this and how it related to the Counseling Psychology PhD. He is in favor of eliminating the limit of 30 credits earned at another institution that can be applied to the MU doctoral program. Counseling Psychology proposes:

- All of the credits earned towards a master’s degree in an approved and closely related field such as Counseling or Community Mental Health Counseling, and earned at an APA accredited institution, shall count towards the PHD post-baccalaureate credit requirements, with the following provisions.
In all cases a minimum of 21 credits of course work must be taken at Marquette University while in the PHD program, and

- All 12 dissertation credits must be taken at Marquette University

Dr. Hossenlopp recommended checking with Dr. Burkard on the APA requirements to make sure there is no conflict. Members agreed to take a vote contingent upon follow-up with Dr. Burkard and the proposal was unanimously approved.

Prep for dinner with Fr. Pilarz (review draft 3 of Graduate Education at Marquette document) – Members discussed what else should be included in the document for use at the dinner meeting with the president. Suggestions included:

- Highlight graduate program relationships with area businesses.
- Mention diversity scholarships and minority fellowships.
- Stress the core importance of graduate programs, i.e., the existence of graduate programs enables recruitment of good faculty and students, research is done at the graduate level.
- MU has an opportunity to help create jobs (there is nothing in the strategic plan about this)

Questions members would like to ask:

- What will the university do to find funds to run graduate programs?
- What fundraising programs are being created for the graduate school?
- Do we want to be the best university in Milwaukee?
- Do we want to have a national reputation?

The meeting adjourned at 3:41pm.