University Board of Graduate Studies Minutes
of the 11/6/14 meeting

**Present:** Allison Abbott, Jay Caulfield, Robert Griffin, Kim Halula, Heather Hathaway, Jeanne Hossenlopp, John Jentz, Alison Julien, John LaDisa, Felissa Lee

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

**Excused:** T. Gerry Bradley, Sharon Chubbuck, Ana Garner, Maureen O’Brien, 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 enrollment projections are down slightly from last year, which are affecting the budget for next year. She encouraged members to focus on recruiting efforts to assist programs as appropriate. While declining graduate enrollments has been a national trend, some universities are beginning to see improvements. The UBGS would like to take on enrollment issues as a central topic.

*Graduate Associate Dean* – no report

*UBGS Chair* – no report

**Business:**

*Spring Forum Discussion* –
The topics targeted at the last forum were discussed:

#1 Connecting more students into research

#2 Building sustainable cross-disciplinary collaborative research

#3 Enhancing research with direct societal impact and that promotes social innovation

**Comments:**

- It is beneficial to connect undergrads in to prime them to become grad students, and also to benefit 5 year joint BA/MA or BS/MS programs.
- Undergraduate student research is being examined by other groups but seems to be stymied by lack of funding.
- Consider what marketing MU as a research institution will do to MU’s image.
- Counterpoint: Many undergrad students ask about research opportunities at open houses.
- Some students would merely like to hear faculty describe their own research.
- Things to consider – job markets, faculty research, ranking of program.
• Concerns were expressed of how enrollment in masters programs could be affected. Dr. Hossenlopp responded that having faculty doing research should not deter someone who is looking for a professional program.

• It was suggested that two UBGS concerns, recruiting and program development, could be related to #2.

• Another possible topic recommended is online courses.

• #3 seems to fit with mission in an obvious way. Perhaps awareness can be increased, and packaging can be made attractive to funders.

Dr. Hossenlopp suggested making more use of the MU television to promote program happenings, awards, etc. and also encouraged members to consider the innovation funds for new ideas. Abstracts for funds are due in early February.

It was agreed to wait to find out what the Committee on Research prioritizes for topics before deciding whether the forum should be joint. Members said either of the reserved dates (March 24 and March 26) would work.

INPR Library Liaison Proposal – presented by John Jentz

The library proposes having a librarian assigned to each INPR student who would be an expert in at least one of the fields of the student’s study. The librarian would offer assistance with library needs and research, and would be there for consultation as needed, for as long as needed. It was asked, when in the career of the candidate should the librarian be appointed? Members agreed that this should be upon admittance. Dr. Gibson will refer INPR students to Mr. Jentz as they are admitted, and Mr. Jentz will serve as the contact who will make the match between the librarian and student. Students currently in the INPR program will be considered for matches also. This is an opportunity for the student to have a personal librarian. The Graduate School and members of the UBGS appreciate this offer and agree it is a great idea.

Development of an academic integrity tutorial for grad students

Dr. Gibson explained that a proposal for academic integrity has been in the works for a few years. Besides policies, a tutorial is desired. This is currently being done at the undergraduate level. A new tutorial will be customized for graduate students. The timeline for this: it will be rolled out in summer and available in fall, with an inability for the student to register for spring unless the tutorial is completed. Dr. Gibson is looking for feedback from the members, noting that Law and Dentistry would be excluded because they already do this. It is expected that the tutorial will be general enough to use broadly. Dr. Gibson also informed members that an Honor Council is being formed. Members would like to view the tutorial once it is finalized.

INPR proposal (executive session) -

Members reviewed the proposal (received in advance), which the candidate elected to submit under the new INPR guidelines. To start, Dr. Gibson gave a brief overview of the INPR
program for the sake of new members. Members agreed the proposal is well written, all requirements were fulfilled, and they have no recommendations.

A request was made to discuss dissertation and thesis formats in general and prospectus forms at a future meeting. Dr. Gibson will send a copy of the current guidelines to members for discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 3:44pm.