University Board of Graduate Studies Minutes  
of the 11/7/13 meeting

Present: Jay Caulfield, Sharon Chubbuck, Ana Garner, Robert Griffin, Kim Halula, Heather Hathaway, Jeanne Hossenlopp, Mike Johnson, Maureen O’Brien, Kelsey Otero, Daniel Rowe, Stephen Saunders

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

Excused: T. Gerry Bradley, Alison Julien, Felissa Lee

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

Reports:

Graduate Dean –
Dr. Hossenlopp reported that the Provost has convened subcommittees to discuss enrollment management and went on to report enrollment figures for this fall. She also reported that in a meeting with the Burke Foundation, they have agreed to fund their contribution for up to two more Trinity Fellows. Dr. Hossenlopp will meet with Advancement to address the need to raise some additional funds for Marquette’s part. There are currently 10 students accepted each year for two years, which makes 20 students at any given time.

Graduate Associate Dean –
Since Dr. Gibson has the first business topic he asked Ms. Otero to report on the GSO. She was happy to report last week’s GSO happy hour had an attendance of 120 grad students, meeting people from departments other than their own. It was considered a very successful event.

Graduate Assistant Dean –
Mr. Pierce reported that the Graduate School Open House will be held this afternoon and is expected to be the largest one yet. Tomorrow, representatives from the Graduate School will be going to a recruiting fair at the National McNair Conference.

He also reported that some departments are not making admissions decisions and the Grad School has had to refund some applications fees when decisions were not made by the deadline.

Lastly, based on department feedback, the Grad School will probably not hold a spring open house but will use the funds towards recruiting efforts for individual departments as requested. New recruiting possibilities are currently being considered.

UBGS Chair –
Dr. Johnson reported that the UAS passed the dental proposal, but were stymied on the wording issue regarding UBGS membership. He also notified the members that representatives from University Advancement will be invited to attend a spring meeting. Dr. Johnson also expects to hold another joint forum with the Committee on Research in the spring. Lastly, there are several upcoming INPRs, and possibly two that will be presented in December.
Business:

INPR program review and continuing discussion –

Dr. Gibson presented a PowerPoint on the Interdisciplinary PhD program (INPR), which included the history, procedures, and success rate. Dr. Gibson asked members for some possible actions items.

Suggestions included:

- Expand the program to allow work on a master’s on the way to a PhD.
- Recruit among current MU masters students or in industries where people are getting PhD’s.
- Offer a faculty incentive to participate on INPR committees. Think of ways to offer some recognition
- Think about housing the INPR program in an interdisciplinary/cross disciplinary centers, rather than the UBGS
- A concern is that if oversight goes to another group, issues of misunderstanding could occur
- Since the program has a long and successful track record, more confidence should be placed on the selected dissertation committee, who would have presumably more expertise in the proposed research. Indeed, the opinion from one member who had served on an INPR committee is that too much interference by the UBGS subcommittee can be offensive.
- Not having a single department unit poses a danger of the dissertation committee not really functioning as a committee. It was suggested to limit the INPR to a maximum of two disciplines. This would also foster a deeper study of the research area.
- To assess progress, require a dissemination of research section by way of publications or conference presentations? There were varying opinions on this.
- Annual oversight is needed.
- Identify affiliated faculty on a web link to the program.
- Define tracks.

Dr. Johnson and Dr. Gibson will write a list of today’s ideas to bring back to the board.

UAS statutes discussion –

A recent presentation requesting one word change regarding UAS statutes for UBGS created concerns and was sent back to the UBGS. Dr. Johnson offered some options for the board but suggested waiting until UAS resolves their own definitions of faculty/administrator. He also recommended looking at other changes made to the statutes that make it appear that the UBGS does not have guidelines. Dr. Garner recommended sending it back to UAS with the explanation that questions regarding definitions have been raised.

Dr. Johnson pointed out that it makes sense to maximize qualified people for membership, regardless of how they are defined. It was also advised to keep in mind that redefining faculty could exclude participating faculty, among others, and also pointed out it is not productive to perpetuate the divide between faculty and administration. Dr. Garner
suggested that the UAS intention could be to be protective of faculty representation. The issue of who counts as faculty needs to be resolved and members agreed that Dr. Johnson will ask UAS for guidance. In the meantime UBGS will carry on with business as usual.

Factors for re-allocation of assistantship and tuition credit resources –

Dr. Hossenlopp explained there does not seem to be any historical record for how credits were originally allocated, but posed the question that if a department does plunge in enrollments, should they still receive the same number of credits? Members were asked to think about this, and due to limited time today, this will be on a future agenda.

Enrollment management update and action items –

As the topic of declining enrollments is addressed across the university, Dr. Hossenlopp asked members to consider how to move graduate education forward in the future, how to grow graduate programs, and what it would take to do it.

Suggestions included:

- Repackage some programs to create low hanging fruit to get initial attraction.
- Create additional programs in Health Sciences.
- Think about a collaborative program for Communication in Health - ties to psychology, communication, and health.
- EDPL certificates could include a joint program with Philosophy, getting two masters degrees concurrently and a bridge program with people in STEM subjects.

It was pointed out that in some areas in which a significant growth would require more faculty, and currently, there is no financial incentive for departments to increase enrollments.

Lastly Dr. Hossenlopp encouraged everyone to attend a Presidential Search Session or offer feedback online.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05pm.