University Board of Graduate Studies Minutes  
of the 11/29/12 meeting

Present: Jay Caulfield, Robert Griffin, Kim Halula, Arthur Hefti, Ed Inderrieden, Mike Johnson, Albert Rivero, Stephen Saunders
Also Present: Melody Baker (note taker), Kevin Gibson, Craig Pierce

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. and the agenda was approved.

Reports:

Graduate Associate Dean-
Dr. Gibson announced there is a change in the way classes are audited. The change was prompted by the registrar and approved by the provost. The concern is for people that have taken a class and, when they discover they are not doing well in it, can change to auditor status up until quite late in the semester, although so far, this hasn’t been an issue. With the change they would be required to disclose that they will audit instead by close of registration. The advantages and disadvantages to both the student and professor were discussed.

Graduate Assistant Dean-
Mr. Pierce shared that a letter came out from the president addressing graduate enrollment and requesting options to boost enrollment by the end of this semester. There are some meetings coming up to brainstorm ideas.

Unfinished Business:
Interdisciplinary Ph.D. program assessment and review – (continued from last meeting)
Members seem to be ok with the basic structure that was shared with the group, and agreed that because there has never been a review for this program, one should be initiated as a first priority. Dr. Gibson has agreed to be the initial program coordinator and will work with Dr. Johnson to begin the process towards review. Dr. Johnson asked the members for opinions – there was unanimous agreement that everyone is satisfied with what has been proposed so far.

Review of discussion with Fr. Pilarz-
Members commented that they had an appreciation that the UBGS was asked for their opinions on how to heighten graduate program awareness. They felt Fr. Pilarz was engaged with the topic of graduate education, and there was an atmosphere of graciousness all around. Dr. Johnson will be sending the document on Graduate Education at Marquette to Fr. Pilarz as a follow-up.
Graduate Data, including Enrollment Baseline Report, PhD Completion Report, MS Completion Report (as time permits)

Mr. Pierce explained the data and reports, how often they are run, what they are used for, and who they go to. He asked members if the format was ok, or could be done better, and will sending out the reports to departments over the winter break. It was recommended to add an additional column with a cumulative mean of all the groups that are totaled.

The number of students participating in Dissertation Boot Camp, and what the results are, was discussed. It was pointed out that a variety of participants from across campus attend Dissertation Boot Camp.

There was some discussion about tuition discounts and stipends. Members asked for clarification on kinds of support (for doctoral or masters). Professional programs are different – they cannot be compared to PhD programs.

New Business:
Disruptive Conversation with Campus Ministries and Graduate Students to brainstorm on strategic planning

17 guests (graduate students and campus ministry staff) joined the meeting. The video with Fr. Pilarz was shown first, and then Megan Petrik, graduate student rep on the Strategic Planning Coordinating Committee, facilitated a discussion for the next hour.

Comments that were made:

- Roundtable discussions with a variety of people were suggested to gather ideas, bounce ideas off each other.
- Find a way to make collaborations between grad students and campus ministry.
- What is campus ministry doing? – Provides a space and resource for students to find a way that things they learn in the classroom can be integrated into their lives in the interest of creating “whole people”. Provides discussion groups, retreats, liturgy, interfaith dialogue, social justice, retreats, and mission trips.
- A challenge to building community with grad students is that they are often part time, and live off campus. Academics are only a piece of their life. Most have a job, family, and church, away from campus. Still, they would like to be connected, often in a spiritual way that can help them walk through their education.
- Campus ministry is involved in undergraduate orientation but not so much graduate orientations. They would be willing to participate and have put together a list of programs that grad students could participate in.
- GSO point of view – these are things they’ve been trying to accomplish, but it is hard for their small team to meet the needs of the grad student population. GSO would be interested in working with Campus Ministry to create activities to reach out to grad students.
- Due to the diverse religious backgrounds of grad students it’s possible that there may be a perception that campus ministry is there to convert them.
- A sense of community is something that is needed that applies to a diverse population.
- A dedicated physical space for grad students to congregate would be helpful.
• It is important to recognize the differences between grad and undergrad students. While undergrads live on or near campus and are available to participate more often, grad students tend to live away from campus, have jobs, families, etc.
• Grad students may need help in finding their vocation and finding fulfillment in that – (career services?).
• More communication is needed to grad students from campus ministry regarding what’s available.
• There could be mentor possibilities between grads and undergrads; they can learn from each other, they don’t necessarily need to be segregated.
• What is a good tool of communication to grad students? Information is most likely seen by internal communications from colleges and schools. Information can also be posted in the Grad School newsletter. Grad student departmental reps were also recommended as a source.
• Campus ministry also offers spiritual direction that is customized for the student. Resources for students of other denominations are available through campus ministry (affiliated ministries) and they will help students connect with various faith communities in the Milwaukee area.
• Provide a liaison between campus ministry and the various departments – use students as representatives. This would be convenient and most effective for grad students. It’s helpful if students can get to know a person.
• Research is applicable to all graduate students, something they have to be involved in that may not allow them to get involved in other things. One recommendation was made to create a partnership with students who are doing research in the area of social justice, or homelessness, with the Midnight Run participants.
• Campus ministry – how can it facilitate everyone’s purpose and mission while they are here?
• What should the focus be for Marquette looking forward in the next 5-7 years? What are the big problems of the world? Identify this first, and then identify how MU can help. Is it suitable to approach world-wide issues or should the focus be on more humble (and local) goals?
• Need to name the communities greatest problems – this is where we live.
• How do we as a university give ourselves the necessary tools to address discernment?
• Not everything and everyone’s research fits into every box, and can’t be made to.
• Think about how can we do more?

The meeting adjourned at 4:07pm.