The following is a snapshot of key activities of the University Board of Graduate Studies for the 2009-2010 academic year.

The following have come as motions before the Academic Senate:

**Accelerated Bachelor’s/Master’s Degree Program**

Upon a motion from UBGS and UBUS, the Senate approved the Accelerated (Bachelor’s/Master’s) Degree Program (ADP). This program is designed to provide undergraduate students with a more efficient means to obtain a master’s degree. The program is for students who have high academic potential and want to start taking courses that will count toward both their undergraduate and their graduate degrees. ADP benefits Marquette University by capturing the university’s best students for master’s study. Each participating department will have a limited number of openings for this program and will accept only the highest performing students. Academic units interested in participating in the ADP must provide a proposal to the UBUS and UBGS that specifies courses and indicates how the necessary competencies will be incorporated into this accelerated program.

**Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling**

The Senate, upon a UBGS motion, approved the Master of Science program in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC), to be administered by the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology. Students in CMHC will develop the professional knowledge, skills, and practices necessary to address a wide variety of circumstances within the contexts of clinical mental health counseling and rehabilitation counseling. This education is designed to broaden the students’ employment and professional opportunities and deepen their positive impacts upon the profession. The CMHC department had told the UBGS that there a market for this degree and that they feel a moral obligation to offer it. Various implications for accreditation also make this program necessary, they said.

**Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities**

The Senate, upon a motion from UBGS, endorsed the Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities document. This document, based on similar documents at other universities, was initiated and developed by the M.U. Graduate Student Organization (GSO) with the assistance and encouragement of the UBGS. The document aims to maintain and promote fair treatment of graduate students and faculty alike in a university environment. It addresses areas such as the role of faculty, advising, maintenance of records, principles of coursework, academic
programming, grad school appointments, and grad student participation in governance. GSO explained that they had developed the document because some grad students said they were unclear about their rights and what was expected of them.

**Sports Leadership Certificate**

Upon petition from the UBGS, the Senate approved the Graduate Certificate in Sports Leadership, to be administered by the College of Professional Studies. The certificate is expected to appeal especially to those working in, or toward, leadership positions in high school and college athletics. Students are expected to be drawn to this program in part because of Marquette’s reputation for quality education, its connection with the National Sports Law Institute, and its position in the Big East conference.

**Discontinuation of Gerontology Certificate**

The Senate, acting on a UBGS motion, agreed to discontinue the Gerontology Certificate. UBGS voted to end this certificate program based on a request from the Dental School, which had offered the certificate. No students are currently enrolled in the program, it has become an economic drain, there is no director, and the School of Dentistry is no longer enthusiastic about the program. The Dental School says that the subject of gerontology is still addressed within the Dental School and in other programs on campus (e.g., Nursing).

The following are some other key activities undertaken by the UBGS so far this academic year:

**Core Graduate Student Learning Outcomes:** The UBGS continued to develop and refine a set of essential general outcomes for graduate education at Marquette, to help with assessment. A pilot set of questions will be a part of the exit survey of graduates this spring.

**Guidelines for Chairing Dissertation Committees:** The UBGS discussed the qualifications for faculty serving as chairs of dissertation committees. The provost indicated that he would prefer a more general discussion toward the establishment of graduate faculty status at Marquette.

Among some of the other activities, the UBGS approved a course option for the master’s degree in electrical and computer engineering, updated the policy on academic probation, required that the program planning form be completed by all master’s students by the end of their first semester, and clarified the policy on transfer of credits into a student’s graduate program (master’s and Ph.D.). The UBGS also slated two INPR (Interdisciplinary Ph.D.) proposal hearings. One of these was conducted by videoconference at the April UBGS meeting, and the other will be conducted at the May UBGS meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert J. Griffin
UBGS Chair