University Board of Graduate Studies Minutes  
5/7/2015  
Raynor Conference Center A

Also Present: Kevin Gibson, Craig Pierce, Mary Wacker (note taker)  
Excused: T. Gerry Bradley, Jay Caulfield, Sharon Chubbuck, John LaDisa, Felissa Lee

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m. It was reported that a majority of committee members voted to approve the April 9, 2015 minutes.

Reports:

Graduate Interim Dean: (Kevin Gibson)

Dr. Gibson noted that this meeting represents the final UBGS meeting for outgoing Graduate Assistant Dean Craig Pierce. Craig was recognized and thanked for his faithful and efficient service and many contributions to this board. Dr. Gibson also thanked the board membership, especially noting those who will not be returning after this academic year, for their contributions this year.

Dr. Gibson articulated the hope that the Graduate School leadership will present an overview of the structure of graduate programs at the first meeting of the new academic year. This overview is intended to provide a better understanding of the structures present, the approval process, and a primer on the process of graduate education at Marquette. This review will provide a shared understanding of the role of the Graduate School as well as provide information for new members of the board.

Dr. Gibson reported on a very successful year for the Graduate Student Organization (GSO), thanks to strong student leadership, led by GSO Coordinator Kara Pierce. The GSO hosted three happy hours during the academic year and the social collaboration of the group gained momentum. In addition to the social aspects of the GSO, the group designated a service coordinator this year who coordinated food drives and other community service outreach. Additionally, the GSO provided an appropriate channel for discussion of campus controversies by hosting open forums to provide a place for the graduate student voice to be heard. GSO representatives staffed every university committee on which they were invited to participate, providing a constructive graduate student voice in the significant decisions made throughout the university community. An excellent group of contributing students will be graduating and leaving the GSO this year, but there is great confidence in the new candidates who have stepped forward to serve in the leadership of GSO for the upcoming academic year.

The Preparing Future Faculty and Professionals (PFF&P) program was revamped this academic year. Originally modeled for future faculty, the new PFF&P provided workshops and guidance for graduate students pursuing both faculty and other professional training. The programs,
available to all graduate students on campus, provided not only pedagogical programming, but also provided guidance through GROW programming, departmental individual equivalency programs, stress management workshops, and recognition of work done through Mission and Ministry. With guidelines for completion of certificate programs, there is flexibility in the PFF&P to encourage students to participate at whatever level they can. Dr. Gibson thanked outgoing PFF&P coordinator Maggie Cinto, who has driven the program for three years, for her strong stewardship of the program through these changes. The future of the PFF&P looks to be in good hands as strong candidates for leadership in the upcoming year have come forward through the interview process.

Dr. Gibson reported that the INPR program currently has two student applicants, and nine other students in the pipeline. Two have applied for summer 2015 graduation. The Graduate School has provided some funding to aid in the completion of their programs.

The search for a permanent Dean of the Graduate School is underway, with an expected initial review date of candidates set for May 18th. The university has articulated a goal to have a new dean named in June to begin in July of 2015.

**Graduate Assistant Dean:** (Craig Pierce)

Mr. Pierce announced to the board that Carl Wainscott has accepted the position of Assistant Dean of the Graduate School. Carl has been in the Graduate School for nine years in a variety of roles, and his strong knowledge will provide a smooth transition. The Graduate School has received authorization to hire a new Director of Graduate Admissions to fill the vacancy left by Carl, and interviews will be conducted next week.

Mr. Pierce added that he has thoroughly enjoyed working with current and past members of the UBGS, and has found it a privilege to serve with colleagues who have become friends.

**UGBS Annual Report:** (Heather Hathaway)

Dr. Hathaway reported that she presented the annual report to the Academic Senate, including a rundown of programs that have been approved and discontinued. Dr. Gibson added to the report that the UBGS has improved the efficiency of meetings by transacting some board business via email. He added that this committee has done a great deal of work this year, to the benefit of our students.

**Business:**

**Identification of Issues for UBGS in the Upcoming Academic Year**

Dr. Abbott referenced the results of the March 2014 Joint Faculty Forum, and asked the board to identify issues for consideration to direct the focus of the UBGS in the new academic year.
Dr. Griffin noted the continuing need to break down the silos that exist between colleges and department on campus, noting that research opportunities and the growth of our programs will be enhanced by a broader knowledge of what is done in other departments.

Dr. Hathaway noted a movement from the university administration to restructure the use of graduate teaching assistants in English, noting that such decisions will have significant repercussions on the nature of the graduate program in English at a time when departmental leadership is in transition. Dr. Hathaway encouraged the UBGS to engage in the discussion of where such decisions originate. Dr. Gibson echoed the need to provide an overview of the decision making process in the Graduate School.

Dr. Saunders noted that the reputation of a university often rests on the capacity to do research well. While there is a national movement focused on providing resources for undergraduate research, it is important to also focus on the importance of graduate level and faculty research. Undergraduate research is an exercise that differs from graduate level and faculty research, which play a significant role in the Carnegie Classifications in higher education. This committee should continue to encourage the conversation about the importance of funding graduate and faculty research and explore ways that the university can support this work. It was noted that the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs under the leadership of Vice President Hossenlopp has done a great job with limited staff and resources to articulate this need.

Dr. Chattopadhyay encouraged the committee to seek partnerships with community organizations and to explore ways to facilitate better networking between faculty and the community. There needs to be advocacy for better recognition of the time faculty commit to service activities within the community.

Prof. Julien encouraged the discussion of ways to better identify the strengths of graduate programs and effective ways to market that message.

Dr. O’Brien identified the need to create an infrastructure for research with adequate funding so that graduate students can commit full-time to their programs. Given the changes in the leadership structure, with Vice President Hossenlopp no longer serving in the capacity of graduate dean, it will be crucial for the new graduate dean to facilitate graduate school needs and integrate them into the fabric of the university. Vice President Hossenlopp has elevated the visibility of the Graduate School – this is crucial to maintain.

Mr. Davaji acknowledged that, while he has been a graduate student for a long time, service on the UBGS has been a learning experience. He encouraged the committee to work to track student publications and to ensure that the message of the graduate research being done at Marquette is better communicated. Dr. Gibson affirmed the good work being done by graduate students and the need to share that news.

Mr. Jentz reiterated the concern about silos, and suggested that the Graduate School might find a participatory role in decision making to integrate service learning as is done at the undergraduate
level. Service learning provides opportunities to promote interdisciplinary projects across the curriculum, enhance communication across silos, and create new synergy within the university.

Dr. Abbott suggested that this board could advocate for ways to eliminate administrative barriers for students who want to take courses across the curriculum. This committee should explore ways to take better advantage of the unique breadth of Marquette’s programs.

Mr. Pierce suggested that the committee continue to explore tuition discount models. He noted that it is important for this entity to dream big, because while all plans will not be implemented, starting the conversation is the first step toward accomplishing new goals.

Dr. Hathaway noted that she is encouraged by this year’s successful post-graduation placement of her graduate students. There is great energy in the humanities.

Dr. Griffin encouraged the committee to advocate for recognition for faculty who write research proposals, which can take a great deal of time and hinder efforts to write for journals and make progress toward tenure. Is there a way to encourage faculty to write proposals without compromising their professional goals? He further noted that, while our students have a wonderful humanities base, there is more Marquette can do to bring in and support faculty who will encourage underrepresented efforts at quantitatively based, social science research on our campus. Such faculty would probably help MU get grants in the social sciences from agencies such as the National Science Foundation.

Dr. Gibson concluded the brainstorming session by noting that this committee is as powerful as it chooses to be, encouraging the group to continue to serve as a vehicle to guide creative change.

**INPR Concept Paper Approval (Craig Pierce)**

Mr. Pierce circulated a concept paper submitted by a prospective student prior to the meeting via email, and requested that the board review and vote on a motion to allow the student non-degree status for the purpose of moving forward to an INPR proposal. Pierce indicated that the student has met with the Dean and Assistant Dean of the Graduate School. Dr. Griffin asked and had confirmed that the board would see a better developed Outline before approving the INPR request. It was noted that an acceptable proposal will require better incorporation of areas of interest referenced in the concept paper.

Discussion included the affirmation that John Davis of the College of Business Administration has the background necessary to guide the student’s program, and has indicated a willingness to serve on the student’s committee. Dr. Hathaway asked if we would be obligated to allow the student to continue to degree status by approving this step, and Dr. Gibson confirmed that, while the student is academically solid, approval of the concept paper represents permission to pursue course work with no promises. A motion to approve was made by Prof. Julien and seconded by Dr. Griffin. The motion passed unanimously.
Dr. Gibson offered an update on the INPR candidate reviewed in April. He indicated that the student plans to attend, but it is likely that he will defer until the spring 2016 semester due to a lack of available funds for the fall.

**Election of New Officers (chair, vice-chair, secretary)**

The board offered a round of applause for Jay Caulfield, outgoing chair of the UBGS, for her outstanding service to the board.

Dr. Gibson informed the board that Dr. Michael Johnson has agreed to serve as an officer for the 2015-2016 academic year subject to approval from his home college. No other board members came forward to fill the remaining board offices, so a motion was made and approved to table the election of new officers until the September 3, 2015 meeting of the UBGS.

Dr. Griffin made a motion to formally thank Craig Pierce for his selfless, strong service to the UBGS. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hathaway, who added that Pierce has answered every question brought to him generously, thoroughly and patiently, and has offered invaluable counsel on navigating administrative hurdles and providing clear rationale regarding the interpretation of rules and the appropriate use of boundaries that reflect his strong ethical core. The motion was passed with a resounding and unanimous vote.

Pierce added an endorsement of the upcoming dissertation boot camp, asking the board members to please continue to encourage students to take advantage of the opportunity, and also to spread the word to faculty members who might be able to facilitate.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mary C. Wacker

**Upcoming meetings for the 2015-2016 Academic Year:**
(Thursdays, 2-4 pm)

- 9/3/2015
- 10/1/2015
- 11/5/2015
- 12/10/2015
- 1/14/2016
- 2/4/2016
- 3/3/2016
- 4/7/2016
- 5/5/2016