University Board of Graduate Studies Minutes
Thursday, March 1, 2018, 2:30-4:00 p.m.
Raynor Conference Room C

Present: Allison Abbott (chair), Sumana Chattopadhyay (alternate for Kati Berg), Alison Efford, Marilyn Frenn, Kim Halula (Secretary), Jim Hoelzle, Margaret Nettesheim-Hoffman, Farrokh Nourzad, Michael O’Hear, Geoffrey Thompson

Present, non-voting: Carrianne Hayslett, Jenny Staab (note taker)

Not present: Kati Berg (vice chair), John LaDisa, Carl Wainscott (non-voting), Doug Woods (non-voting)

I. Call to order. At 2:32 p.m. by Dr. Abbott.

II. Approval of minutes. February 8, 2018, minutes were approved electronically by a majority of the Board.

III. Reports.

A. Graduate School Associate Dean. - Carrianne Hayslett

Graduate Student Week.

Dr. Hayslett thanked Ida McConnell, assistant director for student development and alumni relations, for her creativity and effort in organizing the first Graduate Student Week, February 19-23. The events were well-attended, particularly the Graduate Assistants Appreciation Lunch and Health Equity presentation.

The week ended with the Three-Minute Thesis competition. Mr. Giovanni Berardi, a doctoral student in the Clinical and Translational Rehabilitation Health Science program, emerged as the competition winner and will move on to represent Marquette University at the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools regional competition in Grand Rapids, Michigan, April 6, 2018.

During the competition, the first ever Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Awards were presented. Mr. Peter Burgess, a doctoral student in the Philosophy program, was awarded teaching assistant, instructor of record. Ms. Carly Kroll, a master's degree student in the Communication program was awarded teaching assistant, non-instructor of record.

Ms. McConnell is sending out a survey to graduate students to receive their feedback from this event.

Enrollment. From last year at this time, Graduate School applications are up 9%. When combined with the Graduate School of Management, applications are up 5%. Acceptances are up 81%, and matriculations are up 300%. This last figure is largely the result of departments making faster admission decisions.

New Program Incubator. There is currently a call for applications. This year we’ve been updating the processes to make them smoother.

IV. Business.

A. Action item: Proposal to update Interdisciplinary PhD Program (INPR) policy. - Carrianne Hayslett

The Graduate School is currently working on streamlining the INPR process and improving the way that the process is communicated.

Dr. Hayslett reviewed the draft of the new webpages outlining the process for the INPR and received feedback from those in attendance. The webpages will be updated using that feedback and brought to a future UBGS meeting for further review and a vote of approval.
B. Discussion: Minimum admission requirements to the INPR. - Carrianne Hayslett

The main points for discussion were:

1. What should the INPR policy be regarding an applicant with a master’s degree but with a GPA under 3.5?
2. Should Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) be required in those cases?
3. If yes, should there be a minimally acceptable score?

Ideas brought up during the discussion included:

- If the applicant’s GPA is below 3.5, there must be some additional requirement.
- Keep the policy’s current language: if the applicant’s GPA is below 3.5 the applicant submits the GRE scores for review but with no minimum required scores.
- It was suggested that the INPR application process be modified to more closely parallel that of discipline-specific departments, with all application materials submitted with the concept paper to allow the UBGS to conduct a holistic application review.
- Instead of trying to determine a minimum-required score, recommend that applicants score above a certain percentile, e.g., the 50th percentile. (Also suggested was the 30th percentile.) This could be stated in a general way, such as: “Typical students have a score above the 50th percentile.”
- In determining the percentile, it would be good to look at average GRE scores from all current Marquette students.

C. Action item: Proposal to update the policy for Accelerated Degree Programs (ADPs) to make allowances for students from outside institutions and the automatic transfer of credits. - Carrianne Hayslett

Dr. Hayslett summarized the proposed changes which would make our guidelines suitable for partnerships with outside institutes, like Albion College in Michigan.

The department from the outside institute must have predetermined which courses can be transferred in to the Marquette ADP. The transfer cap is 12 credits for a 30-credit program.

Motion: To approve the language as written, updating the policy for Accelerated Degree Programs (ADPs) to make allowances for students from outside institutions and the automatic transfer of credits. Made by Allison Abbott, seconded by Alison Efford. No further discussion. Motion passed: Unanimous. 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions. (Dr. Chattopadhyay was not present for this vote.)

V. Adjourn. At 4:04 p.m. by Dr. Abbott.

Scheduled meetings for 2017-2018 Academic Year
Thursdays, new time of 2:30-4:00 p.m.

Apr 5, 2018, AMU 227  |  May 3, 2018, Raynor Library lower level, Conf. Room C

Respectfully submitted,
Jenny Staab