University Board of Graduate Studies (UBGS)
January 16, 2020 – 2:30-4:00 p.m.
Raynor, Lower Level, Conference Room C

Minutes

Present: Jill Birren, Ed Blumenthal (chair), Norah Johnson, Sarah Kizuk, Farrokh Nourzad, Michael O’Hear (secretary), Paula Papanek, Jeff Starke (vice chair), Peter Staudenmaier, Scott D’Urso

Present, non-voting: Carrianne Hayslett, Lee Hovorka (note taker), Carrie Pruhs, Theresa Tobin, Carl Wainscott, Doug Woods

Not present: Jim Hoelzle, Dawei Liu (sabbatical sp 2020), Lars Olson (senate liaison)

I. Call to order. At 2:33 pm by Dr. Blumenthal.

II. Approval of minutes. October 3, 2019, minutes were approved electronically on October 14, 2019 by a majority of the Board.

III. Electronical Proposal Approval. Because there was no November meeting; Jenna Green’s INPR proposal was distributed electronically on November 18, 2019 and was approved by a vote of 10-1.

IV. Reports. – Graduate/Professional Student Task Force Update - Graduate School Dean, Dr. Doug Woods

1. GSO President Lisa Lamson and Dr. Woods have co-chaired a task force to better understand the concerns and experiences of the Graduate and professional students.

2. The task force is set up as two groups. The student side giving the perspective to what it’s like to be a grad student and to provide a platform for feedback from listening sessions. The other is the operations group which has reps from all colleges, grad students, staff and faculty evaluating policies, salaries and health services. Expected outcomes include recommendations for addressing concerns and improving experiences. The plan is to take task force recommendations to the DGS’s, the UBGS, and the UAS to endorse if needed.

3. Data has been collected from a student satisfaction survey which had a 34% response rate. This same version was given in 2016. The survey was sent to all graduate and professional students (except law). The task force will analyze the results and craft recommendations to the President and Provost that will improve the lives of graduate students across campus.

A. The survey structure had 82 items (20 campus and 62 standardized items) divided into eight categories:

a. Instructional Effectiveness-viewed as highly important to students, they are satisfied but, slightly lower than the national norms. No significant changes since 2016.

b. Academic Advising- viewed as highly important to students, they are satisfied and the rate similar to the national norms. No significant changes since 2016.

c. Campus Climate- viewed as highly important to students, they are satisfied but rate lower than national norms. No significant changes since 2016.

d. Safety and Security- viewed as highly important to students, they are generally satisfied but lower than the national norms. Satisfaction has decreased since 2016.
e. Admissions and Financial Aid- viewed as highly important to students, they are generally satisfied, but lower than national norms. Satisfaction has not changed since 2016.

f. Service Excellence- viewed as highly important to students, they are generally satisfied but is lower than national norms. Satisfaction has not changed since 2016.

g. Registration Effectiveness- viewed as highly important to students, they are generally satisfied, but is lower than the national norms. Satisfaction has not changed since 2016.

h. Academic Services-viewed as generally important to students, and they are generally satisfied but is lower than national norms. Satisfaction has decreased since 2016.

B. The five items with the largest gap between the importance and satisfaction scores are: health insurance, leave policies, job seeking help, adequate funding, and communal grad space.

C. Actionable steps from the survey.

a. Health insurance options.

b. Communal space for graduate/professional students.

c. Invest more funding in graduate programs.

d. Conduct review of graduate programs.

e. Establish uniform graduate program handbook.

f. Establish leave policies, complaint procedure and communication pathways.

g. Audit availability and appropriateness of academic student services.

h. Create financial aid counselor position.

i. Explore more flexible payment options/billing policies.

j. Work to schedule class time convenient for students not faculty.

k. Expand office hours for Graduate School.

l. Create webpage with complaint/comments page. Revisit Graduate Student Organization status to make it more comparable to the MUSG.

m. Increase available parking and provide night secure options.

n. Turn on Academic Advising function for Checkmarq.

o. Conduct mandatory advisor training on policies/procedures/curriculum.

D. Discussion

a. As the Graduate School continues to increase enrollment, there are concerns over how revenue from graduate programs is distributed. Comments were made that graduate program revenue should stay within the graduate school and not be redistributed to undergrad programs. Can the UBGS call for such a change?

b. Must work so the GSO is at the same level as MUSG across campus.
c. Strategic plan has changed; placing an emphasis on graduate education.

d. Our students are suffering the burden of disconnect and disservice across campus.

e. The Graduate Student Task Force is coming together for recommendations and should be available by end of February.

f. UBGS will review and consider endorsing the recommendations.

TA/RA/GA line reallocation – Dr. Doug Woods

a. Across the board there was a 10% take back (22.50 lines).

b. The committee and deans received requests and made allocation line recommendations to the graduate school. The recommendations to the deans essentially went with the committee recommendations.

c. Humanities PhD created a category for career diversity assistantship. This is an opportunity to work across campus and learn other career skills.

Admissions update – Dr. Doug Woods

Half of the applications are in and up 6% in the Graduate School and down 6% in the Graduate School of Management.

Admitted students is up 4% in the GSM and up 8% in the GS.

The trend is good across the board. Over 3500 are enrolled in the graduate and professional programs this spring. Enrollment is up about 450 students in graduate and professional programs in the last four years.

TA/RA tuition credit allocation – Dr. Doug Woods

a. Available scholarship credits to be adjusted downward based on two factors.

i. Tuition reduction for humanities MA program eliminates need for those credits.

ii. Grants credits for Ph.D. programs will reduce some of those credits.

b. Distribution of assistantship reviewed.

c. Scholarships will be sent out in a few weeks.

V. Business.

A. EDPL-MA (Educational Policy and Leadership Master of Arts): New 33-credit specialization being proposed in Educational Policy and Foundations of Theology. Replace one course with another – swapping a required course with an elective course.

Jill Birren spoke on behalf of the department and generalized an overview of the master’s program including the usage of existing courses. This program is unique in that it does not fall within other master programs.

Discussion

a. Good concept, inquiry if the three-person minimum would be able to sustain this unit for the next five years.
b. This program will not add incremental expense because there will be no course or section additions.

c. The program would provide students with an accreditation and skill set to teach theology.

Motion to accept the recommendation was made and seconded to approve, a vote was taken with unanimous approval for the new specialization.

B. FANP-CER (Family Nurse Practitioner certificate): Termination proposal.

Discussion

Currently only one student is enrolled in this program which provides an advantage to sunset this program.

Motion made and seconded to terminate the FANP-CER certificate. A vote was taken with unanimous approval for termination.

C. PSMH-CER (Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner certificate): Termination proposal.

Discussion

a. Department does not have the faculty or resources to hire faculty to teach this program.
b. The program has been offered for five years.
c. There are other training options for students such as the CRNA program.
d. Would it be possible to hibernate the program or close the program for enrollment rather than terminate?
e. This is a good program and aligns with the university’s leadership priorities.
f. Suggested to table the termination proposal for department representation to attend the next UBGS meeting.

Motion made and seconded to table until the next UBGS meeting when the department could be present and speak on the termination proposal for the PSMH-CER certificate. A vote taken with unanimous approval to table.

D. Concept Paper - Veronica Mullens, INPR Non-Degree Status – Carl Wainscott

a. Women’s basketball team proposed project

b. Steve Saunders dissertations director

   c. It was suggested that Sandra Hunter should be consulted on this project

Motion made and seconded to approve admitted concept paper as a non-degree student during summer semester to stop at 12 credits. A vote taken with unanimous approval to accept concept paper.

VI. Adjourn. Motion and second to adjourn. Unanimous approval meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Scheduled meetings for 2019-20 Academic Year

Thursdays, 2:30 - 4:00 pm. Meetings will be held in Raynor Library Lower Level, Conf Rm C.

Feb 6, 2020
Mar 5, 2020
Apr 2, 2020
May 7, 2020