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Date: Wednesday, October 18, 2017

Location: J. Ryan Building Room 204

Subject: Graduate Faculty Council (GFC) Meeting Minutes Summary

Attendees: Mark Aindow, Mohamad Alkadry (sub for Eric Brunner), Mary Anne Amalaradjou, Janet Barnes-Farrell, Iddo Ben-Ari (sub for David Solomon), Judy Brown, Andrew Bush, Clarissa Ceglio, Audrey Chapman, Zhiyi Chi, Ki Chon, Stephen Crocker, Amanda Denes, Mary Anne Doyle, Miguel Gomes, Jane Gordon, Ashley Helton, Kent Holsinger (*Ex Officio*), Magdalena Kaufmann, Lawrence Klobutcher, Barbara Kream (*Ex-Officio*), Louise Lewis, Charles Mahoney, Paula McCauley, D. Betsy McCoach, Barbara Parziale (*Ex Officio – Secretary*), Subhash Ray, Victoria Robinson, Alexander Russell, Beth Russell, Cristian Schulthess, Kathy Segerson (*Ex Officio*), Keith Simmons, Gregory Sotzing, Judith Thorpe, Anastasios Tzingounis, Penny Vlahos and Chuanrong Zhang.

Absent: Daniel Adler, Mehdi Anwar, Richard Bass, Robert Bird, Yongku Cho, Casey Cobb, Caroline Dealy, Pamela Diggle, Niloy Dutta, Maria-Luz Fernandez, Jon Gajewski, Matthew Hughey, Adam Lepley, Nicholas Lownes, Graham O’Toole, Lynn Puddington, Heather Read, Guillermo Risatti, Joel Salisbury, Jennifer Scapetis, Gregory Semenza, Farhed Shah, Zeki Simsek, David Solomon, Jiong Tang, Rachel Theodore, Deepthi Varghese, Andrew Wiemer, Peter Zarrow and Cyrus Zirakzadeh.

Guest: Karen Bresciano, Grad School Intern

1. Agenda item number one (1) – Call to order. Moderator Charles Mahoney called to order the regular meeting of the GFC for October 18, 2017 at 3:05 pm.
2. Agenda item number two (2) – Approval of Minutes. Moderator Mahoney introduced the minutes of the September 20, 2017 meeting to the GFC. There was a motion to accept the minutes offered, which was seconded and the motion was adopted in favor by all members present. **Agenda item number two (2) was passed unanimously without dissent on a show of hands.**
3. Agenda item number three (3) - Report from the Graduate Student Senate. Graham O’Toole was unable to attend the meeting. He did send an e-mail with a question for the GFC from the Graduate Student Senate President, Deepthi Varghese, concerning the reason behind students needing to apply to a certificate program before they have taken any classes for the certificate. During the discussion the Council agreed that there needs to be some catalog wording changes. Dean Holsinger will speak with Peter Diplock about what wording changes need to be made and will report back to the Council next month.
4. Agenda item number four (4) – Proposed catalog language change for Certificate programs. There was a discussion about changing the grade requirements for certificate students. During a lively discussion ideas were taken under advisement by Dean Holsinger, who indicated he will come back next month with additional ideas for discussion.
5. Agenda item number five (5) – Nomination and voting for four new Executive Committee members. The faculty members nominated for positions on the Executive Committee are:
   1. Judy Brown Allied Health Sciences
   2. Stephen Crocker Neuroscience
   3. Sylvain Deguise Connecticut Sea Grant Program
   4. Elizabeth Holzer Sociology
   5. Charles Mahoney English
   6. Etan Markus Psychological Sciences
   7. Lynn Puddington Immunology

Voting will be by e-mail ballot.

1. Agenda item number six (6) – New Business, Updates and Announcements.
   1. Dean Holsinger discussed changes to fellowship programs in The Graduate School.
   2. Program descriptions for the Graduate Catalog.
      1. The Registrar’s office will now create The Graduate School Catalog with significant changes to how the catalog is managed.
      2. Keeping with the currently established practice for the undergraduate catalog, the Registrar’s Office will require descriptions of the requirements for every field of study.
      3. The Registrar’s Office views the catalog as a contract between the student and the University concerning the degree requirements.
      4. An example of the templates for the graduate Field of Study information was dispersed to the Council for consistency of reporting requirements.
      5. An email will be sent requesting that catalog copy describing degree/certificate requirements be sent to the Graduate School by December 1, 2017.
   3. Developing a more predictive STEM PhD admissions model.
      1. A handout from the NEA discussed the “…compelling data that GRE scores do not predict STEM doctoral completion and that admissions procedures that use these scores negatively impact diversity initiatives.”
      2. The NEA’s approach is to not use GRE scores at all. The handout discusses alternative ways to identify students who will or will not be successful in Graduate School programs.
   4. Update on the Assistant Dean of The Graduate School vacancy.
      1. Preliminary interviews have been completed. Two of the candidates will be brought in for second interviews - one on October 31 and the other on November 2.
      2. They will each give a public presentation with a question and answer period to follow.
2. There was a motion offered for adjournment, which was seconded. The motion was passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.
3. The next regular meeting of the GFC is scheduled for November 15, 2017 in Room 204 of the J. Ryan Building.