

**Graduate Council Minutes**  
**April 3, 2012**  
**12:30 – 2:00 p.m.**  
**Health Science Campus, Health Education Bldg., Room 103**

Present: Brian Ashburner, Michael Bechill, Barbaranne Benjamin, Timothy Brakel, Amanda Bryant-Friedrich, Michael Dowd, Timothy Fisher, David Giovannucci, Amira Gohara, Kay Grothaus, Mohamed Hefzy, Wayne Hoss, Jungwhan Kim, Jon Kirchhoff, Patricia Komuniecki, Joseph Margiotta, Surya Nauli, Douglas Nims, Nick Piazza, Susan Pocotte, Patricia Relue, Linda Rouillard, Randall Ruch, Dorothea Sawicki, Constance Schall, Dianne Smolen, William Taylor, Mark Templin, Gerard Thompson, Joshua Waldman, Robert Yonker

Excused: James Benjamin, Brian Fink, Hassan Hassab-Elnaby, Ruth Hottell, Bina Joe, Joel Lipman, Sheryl Milz, Timothy Mueser, Holly Monsos, Francis Pizza, Barbara Schneider, Richard Welsch,

Absent: Anand Kunnathur, Sara Lundquist, Snejana Slantcheva-Durst, Nancy Staub

***Call to Order, Roll Call, and Approval of Minutes***

The meeting was called to order and the roll called. The Minutes of the January 10, 2012 Graduate Council meeting were approved.

***Executive Reports***

Report of the Executive Committee of the Graduate Council

Graduate Council Chair, Dr. Michael Dowd, reported that at the March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Graduate Council Executive Committee (GCEC) the committee discussed the proposed University Council (UC). The GCEC has continued to look at the evolving structure of that body and the developments of a Draft Constitution for the UC by the Board of Trustees' Best Practices Sub-Committee. Trustee McQuade will present a draft constitution to the subcommittee on Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. The proposed membership at this time includes the: Faculty Senate President and Vice President, Graduate Council Chair and Vice Chair, Undergraduate Student Government President and Senate Chair (undergraduate)President, Graduate Student Association President, Student Bar Association President, Medical Student Council President, Professional Staff Association Chair and Vice Chair, Alumni Association Vice President, Chair of Deans Council, Chair of each College Council, University CFO, UTMC Senior Vice President, Provost, Chancellor, and President. Note, that this membership has not been finalized. The UC would be presided over by the President. Responsibilities tie into the strategic plans for undergraduate, graduate, and professional education as well as health care access and delivery, and outreach and global activity.

The UC would have broad authority over significant areas of the University including the approval and termination of both undergraduate and graduate programs, facilities, budgets, hiring and promotions, admissions and degrees. Dr. Dowd recommended that the Graduate Council Chair be a member of the proposed Executive Committee of the UC beginning with the next GC Chair. Unfortunately, the University Council would add another layer of review for academic issues. Curriculum decisions by the GC are likely to take additional months for implementation. The UC is comprised of 18 faculty, 6 student members and the remainder are administrators, many of whom are not academic administrators. Close to half of this group are not experienced with academic programs and curricula. Although the hospital is not included in the oversight of the UC, research and business issues will be considered by the UC. That said, its focus appears to be academics.

There have been proposed changes to the UC constitution terms of voting. When the Best Practices Committee met in December 2011, it appeared the UC would likely be a reporting body. However, the draft UC constitution gives the appearance it will be a voting body with veto power over curricular issues.

Dr. Dowd said that it is expected that the draft will continue to evolve. The current draft was just sent to the Best Practices Committee yesterday and will be distributed to Graduate Council Members for their review. He stated he would extend an invitation to Board of Trustee members to attend the next Graduate Council meeting.

Dr. Piazza noted that the Graduate Council would be rendered as a recommending body only, with additional layers required to complete its business. Since the University Council's Executive Committee can act on behalf of the UC, a variety of major academic program decisions could be made, even during the summer.

There was discussion of the fact that a structure is already in place with the current Faculty Senate and the Graduate Council and that there is already a Senior Leadership body. Mr. Michael Bechill, GSA President, commented that a majority of the Best Practices Committee think the proposed UC structure is good and that the details can be worked out later. GC members questioned the rationale behind the plan. The stated objective is to speed up the processes and improve communication.

#### Report from the Graduate Student Association

Mr. Michael Bechill stated that the report of the GSA will be brief as the GSA is also concerned with the proposed University Senate and the EC has already spent time today discussing this issue. From the graduate student perspective, it is not clear why a University Council is needed or how it will increase efficiencies or communication.

The GSA is pleased to report that the recent Midwest Graduate Student Research Symposium held on Main Campus, Saturday, March 24, 2012 was a huge success. A full report will be given at the next GC meeting on April 17, 2012.

#### Report of the Vice Provost for Graduate Affairs and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies

Dean Komuniecki provided the following updates:

- *Budget Hearing*

At the COGS Budget Hearing on March 29, Dean Komuniecki summarized college allocations for tuition scholarships and stipends for the last four years and presented revenue generation ideas from new degree and certificate programs. COGS requested additional tuition scholarship and stipend funding and asked for no increase in tuition for FY 13, but will not know the final outcome until all the hearings are held.

- *National Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week, April 2-6, 2012*

This week has been designated as National Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week and all Graduate Colleges have been asked to make a special effort to appreciate the TAs, RAs and other GAs and GSA leadership on our campus. Dean Komuniecki recognized GSA officers, Mr. Michael Bechill and Mr. Joshua Waldman for the fabulous success of the Midwest Graduate Student Research Symposium on March 24th. It was an extraordinary event with about 200 presenters, 91 graduate student volunteers and 40 faculty judges. The Council applauded. Accordingly, this morning, Dean Komuniecki was interviewed by students from the UT:10 program and they are planning an upcoming program on our GSA and the recent research symposium.

- *Committee Updates*

This is a busy time for several GC committees. The Program Review Committee met last week and the Fellowships and Scholarships Committee will meet this Thursday (April 5<sup>th</sup>). In addition, the COGS Diversity Committee will meet tomorrow (April 4<sup>th</sup>) to review the 30 GOAP applications.

- *GC Elections*

College elections are in progress and COGS is compiling the results as the colleges send us their reports. Within the next few weeks, COGS will be contacting the newly elected members to invite them to the May 1<sup>st</sup> GC meeting.

- *Curriculum Forms*

Since there have been unexpected delays in the final implementation of the electronic curriculum forms, as a short term measure this spring, COGS has prepared the four curriculum forms on our website to assist everyone with new/revised courses and programs proposals. Dean Komuniecki referred Council members to the Graduate Council Curriculum Committee section of the COGS website.

- *Announcements*

Commencement: Saturday, May 5, 2012. COGS still needs marshals and readers for the morning and afternoon commencement ceremonies. The morning ceremony includes the colleges of: Languages, Literature and Social Sciences, Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Visual and Performing Arts, Engineering and Nursing. The afternoon includes the College of Business Innovation and the Judith Herb College of Education and Health Science and Human Service.

Last Professional Development Sessions for AY 2011-2012:

- [Two ETD Formatting and Submission Open Labs](#)

Wednesday and Thursday, April 4th and 5th, 2012, 2:00-4:00 pm., in Carlson Library Room 1027

- [Graduate Students: The Job Interview and Beyond](#)

Thursday, April 5, 2012, 12:00-1:30 p.m., Student Union Room 2591

### ***Information and Discussion Items***

#### **Review of Revisions to the Constitution of the Graduate Faculty**

Dr. Mark Templin reported that the Bylaws and Constitution Review Committee has completed its review of the Constitution of the Graduate Faculty and that the new changes to the document represent suggested changes from GC, GCEC and faculty forums since the last Graduate Council meeting. Dr. Templin presented the final draft (redlined version) indicating where revisions were made. Each article was reviewed for comment/discussion. There was discussion of whether the Associate Deans (ex-officio members) should be eligible to vote. Council was polled on whether Associate Deans can be elected vs. unelectable (ex-officio role only) to which a majority were in favor of electability. The Associate Deans were then polled on whether Associate Deans serving on the Council in an ex-officio capacity should be eligible to vote; the majority were not in favor, however, two were in favor. Associate Deans cannot vote unless they are serving as an elected member to the Council and not as an ex-officio representative of their respective college.

[The Graduate Council endorsed the revisions to the Constitution of the Graduate Faculty.]

The committee will work with COGS to distribute the revisions of the Constitution to the Graduate Faculty for a vote. A two-thirds approval vote of Graduate Faculty who vote is needed for ratification. The results will be announced at the May 1<sup>st</sup> Graduate Council meeting.

#### **Report of the Curriculum Committee**

Dr. Patricia Relue, Curriculum Committee Chair, presented the recommendations of the Graduate Council. Council approved unanimously.

**COURSE MODIFICATIONS**

SM	Mathematics	Application of Statistics I	MATH 5600	Change in credit hours from 2 to 3 cr hr. Course has always had 3 contact hours; change made to reflect work/effort expected; course MATH 7600 retired.
SM	Mathematics	Application of Statistics II	MATH 5610	Change in credit hours from 2 to 3 cr hr. Course has always had 3 contact hours; change made to reflect work/effort expected; course MATH 7610 retired.

**PROGRAM REQUIREMENT REVISIONS**

LS	Psychology	Ph.D. in Psychology	Change in foreign language requirement; eliminate foreign language requirement and replace with an additional elective course.
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***Old Business***

None.

***New Business***

None.

***Adjournment***

There being no further business the Council adjourned at 2:08 p.m.