

Present: Elizabeth Alderton, Jason Belnap, Eric Brunsell, Jamie Ceman, Susan Cramer, John Cross, Steve Dunn, Mike Ford, Karen Gibson, Kathy Hagens, Randy Harris, Joan Heller, Marci Hoffman, Phan Hong, Lixin Jiang, Alfred Kisubi, Shelly Lancaster, Karen Landay, Deb Matulle, Karl Nollenberger, Christine Roth, Alan Saginak, Bob Stelzer, Bill Wresch, Greg Wypiszynski

Excused: Denise Clark, David Fuller, Fredi Giesler, Toni House, Karen King, Jen Szydlak, Judy Westphal, Lori Worm

Guests: Terri Gohmann, Karen Heikel, and Kathryn Scheeler

The meeting was called to order at 1:22 p.m. by Phan Hong.

- A. Student At Risk Response Team (SARRT): Terri Gohmann shared information about SARRT, a team of faculty and staff who assist students in maintaining satisfactory academic progress and promote their health and well-being. Faculty and staff are encouraged to contact a SARRT team member for student support when necessary.
- B. Data Science (MS): Karen Heikel shared information about a new UW System collaborative graduate degree program, which will be organized similar to the Sustainable Management degree. Oshkosh, Eau Claire, Green Bay, La Crosse, Stevens Point, and Superior will offer two online courses each. Students may choose which campus is their “home” campus, and Erik Krohn from Computer Science will be Oshkosh’s Campus Director. The program has a projected start date of Fall 2016, and an Intent to Plan will make its way through governance in the near future.

Program information: The audience includes students employed in data management fields (i.e. computer science, marketing) with an average age of 37. Graduate programs are about theory and management, so a name change to Data Management will be brought to System for discussion. The work-based capstone will include a large project and working with a faculty member through Skype. Three prerequisite courses will be required, as any undergraduate degree qualifies for this master’s.

Feedback from the Council: The Council’s general consensus was that the UW System collaborative programs allow for universities to obtain expertise they may not otherwise have access to. However, it is difficult to continue to use current faculty for these programs at the expense of existing (one campus, only) programs and students.

- C. GradSchool Fest: Kathryn Scheeler shared that 48 students signed in, and 39 completed the exit survey. This year, all students who participated in the survey were added to a drawing for a sweatshirt from the bookstore and giftcards to Copy This!! The GSA served as ushers throughout Reeve. The spring 2015 GradSchool Fest will be in conjunction with Celebration of Scholarship. Because Reeve will be under construction in fall 2015, one option is to hold GradSchool Fest in Sage.

- D. The minutes of the Graduate Council meeting of November 6, 2014 were approved as written. Motion to approve/Second: Steve Dunn/Alan Saginak.
- E. Graduate Studies Travel Fund: Two applications were received, so each student received their maximum award. Varying award amounts over the years encouraged discussion. Because the number of applications received can affect the award amounts, does the Council want to choose not to support some applications? Would that discourage students from applying? For fall, awardees received the maximum award, but in the spring, awards might be minimized to spread among many applicants. Can the Council adjust the guidelines to ensure fairness? Elizabeth Alderton will review the history of Travel Fund awards and bring an assessment to the Council for further discussion at a future meeting. The Travel Fund will remain as-is for the remainder of the academic year.
- F. Graduate Student Association: Randy Harris and Reggie Parson will meet with the Chancellor in January, and they asked if the Council would like any graduate student issues brought to his attention. The Council requested more salary funding to support Graduate Assistantship and Research Assistantship positions (increase stipend amount and number of available positions). Any ideas from the Chancellor of how to improve these areas would be appreciated.
- G. The Graduate Council would like to arrange a special session to meet with the Chancellor outside of the regular Graduate Council meeting schedule. A Thursday between 1:20-2:50pm will be arranged by Susan Cramer. Council discussion ideas will include scholarships and stipends, cost recovery dollars to the programs, student support ideas other than through funding (inclusive excellence, gathering space specifically for graduate students, etc.).
- H. Graduate Honors Ceremony: The University's Honors & Awards Ceremony has grown, and sponsors and students are not receiving recognition like they once were. Karl Nollenberger began a discussion to separate graduate students into their own Honors & Awards Ceremony. After speaking with the Provost, Dean Cramer found that a separate ceremony is a possibility, but the funding and organization would be the responsibility of the Graduate Council. Discussion ensued to combine this ceremony with the Friends of Graduate Education Reception in the spring.

A tentative date of Thursday, May 28, 2015 was set for the Friends of Graduate Education Reception. A call for Friends Nominations will be sent to Council members in January, with an April 1 deadline.

- I. Distinguished Research Award for Non-thesis Programs: Motion in favor of a second Distinguished Research Award for programs that do not include a thesis requirement and to create an ad hoc committee/Second: Christine Roth/Bob Stelzer. All in favor. Ad hoc committee members include Karen Gibson, Alfred Kisubi, Elizabeth Alderton, and Karl Nollenberger. Guidelines and notes from a previous committee's work to create this award will be shared with the committee. A small monetary award will be provided to the awardees from the Graduate Studies Office.
- J. GPA on Admissions Evaluations: The Graduate Studies Office asked how many programs use the calculated GPA listed on Admissions Evaluations. The process to calculate GPA in the Graduate Studies Office is extensive, and if we can eliminate pieces, the time can be spent on other projects. All Council members felt a GPA is important, but some programs find

it more useful than others. Graduate Studies will continue to calculate GPAs for programs.

- K. Integrating Graduate with Undergraduate Students: Phan Hong asked the Council if merging graduate students with undergraduates as research mentors would be helpful in the programs. This would be a volunteer opportunity for service hours, and the graduate student would serve as a mentor (in addition to a faculty member) to undergraduates completing major research projects. Some Council members felt more of an incentive would be needed to encourage graduate student participation due to managing other responsibilities (family, work, school, etc), while others felt that graduate students interested in pursuing a Ph.D. would benefit from the experience.

Motion to adjourn at 2:55pm. The next Graduate Council meeting is on February 5, 2015 from 1:20 – 2:50pm in Sage 2210.

Marci Hoffman, Recorder

Copies to:

Graduate Council

Provost Lane Earns

Deans

OSA President

Office of Graduate Studies Staff