GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES
617th Meeting
September 8, 2014


MEMBERS ABSENT: Bell, Schraufnagel, Stoddard, Wilkins

OTHERS PRESENT: Hughes (Secretary), Smith (Catalog Editor/Curriculum Coordinator)

Bond called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. He welcomed Graduate Council members to the first meeting of the academic year and highlighted faculty members and students new to Graduate Council this year.

Priority Business

Establishment of Standing Committees of the Graduate Council: Graduate Council members were asked to choose committees on which they would be interested in serving. Faculty members generally serve on two standing committees and were assigned to at least one of their choice. Graduate students serve on one committee. Additional vacancies will be filled with non-Council members to ensure appropriate representation by college. Arado moved approval of the standing committees list as distributed, which was seconded by Hathaway. The motion passed unanimously.

Selection of an Assistant Chair of the Graduate Council: This person will serve as acting chair when the chair is absent and assist with creating the agenda when called upon. The assistant chair also serves as an ex officio member on the University Council and Faculty Senate. Sims moved that Elizabeth Wilkins be nominated to serve in this capacity based on her past experience with Graduate Council. Gaillard seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. Because Wilkins was not present at the meeting to accept or reject the nomination, Bond indicated that he would contact her after the meeting to inquire about her willingness to serve in this role.

Selection of Representatives to University Committees: Bond informed members that there were four university committees requiring graduate student representation this year. The following graduate students have indicated their willingness to serve:

Elizabeth Olson (GEOL) – Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee
Evan Walter (POLS) – Libraries Advisory Committee
Hui Li (OMIS) – University Assessment Panel
Bond stated that the Academic Diversity Programs Advisory Committee still needed a graduate student representative but indicated that he was expecting to receive the name of an interested student within the next few days.

Bond informed members that the only vacancy this year on university committees requiring Graduate Council faculty representation was on the Libraries Advisory Committee. He informed members that Thomas Sims would not be able to serve on that committee this year and asked for a volunteer to replace him. Therese Clarke Arado volunteered to complete Sims’ term on the Libraries Advisory Committee.

Nominations were unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

**Graduate Council Appeals Committee Report:** Bond reviewed the report that was distributed prior to the meeting. There were sixty-eight appeals reviewed by the committee between September 2013 and August 2014. The committee met three times in person and once electronically. Sixty-four of the cases were typical reinstatements. All appeals were approved, although four students were moved from graduate student to student-at-large status. There were three cases involving additional attempts at a qualifying or comprehensive exam, of which one was approved and two were denied. One appeal for a third use of the special repeat option was approved.

**Criminal Disclosure Review Committee Report:** Bond briefly reviewed the report. Applicants must indicate on the Graduate School application whether or not they have ever been convicted of a felony or have felony charges pending. If an applicant discloses the information, there must be an investigation and the applicant is asked to provide court and police documents related to the case. The committee consists of representatives from the Graduate Council and one representative each from Housing and Dining, Community Standards and Student Conduct, and General Counsel. The committee met five times over the past year and reviewed six cases. Four applicants were permitted to proceed with the application process, though one was denied the privilege of living in on-campus housing. One applicant was denied and encouraged to reapply after completing probation, while another applicant was denied due to the nature of the offense.

New Business

**Graduate Student Representation on FY 16 Student Fee Review Teams:** Bond informed members that the Graduate Council is responsible for providing the president of the Student Association with names of graduate students who are willing to serve on student fee review teams, specifically for the bus fee and the graduate colloquium fee. He asked members to forward the names and email addresses of graduate students who would be willing to participate in these discussions, if called upon.

**Ad-Hoc Committee on Requirements for English Language Competency:** Bond stated that he would be asking for representatives to serve on an ad-hoc committee to further assess the English 451 and 452 or 453 requirements for certain non-immigrant students.
There has been a backlog of international students who have been unable to enroll in 453 due to the limited number of sections offered. Bond confirmed that Doris Macdonald would be asked to serve, as well as representatives from Engineering and Computer Science. Bond indicated that he would be contacting individuals directly.

**Future Agenda Items:** Bond asked members if there were any specific topics they would like to discuss at Graduate Council this academic year. Levin stated that she would like to have a conversation about graduate students pursuing initial teacher certification, specifically the problem that student teachers are ineligible for graduate assistantships. Goldblum indicated that he would like to discuss scholarships and tuition waivers, particularly with regard to deadlines. Rodriguez stated that he would like to talk about low GA stipends and high student fees and insurance, especially for international students who are ineligible to work elsewhere. Bond thanked members for their input and indicated that he may need to establish groups to review and discuss some of these issues.

Bond stated that the October meeting would likely be canceled since subcommittees will not have met, unless members have specific agenda items. A call for agenda items will go out a few weeks in advance of each meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.