

May 13, 2014 Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council

Members Present: R. Cheek, S. France, D. Linton, A. Magidin, S. McInerney, A. Loewy, P. Sheppard (chair), M. Teutsch, D. Wadsworth, M. Farmer-Kaiser (ex-officio member)

1. Call to order by P. Sheppard at 2:08 p.m.
2. Approval of April 8, 2014 meeting minutes
3. Announcements:
 - A. The list of April degree candidates was presented and accepted with the correction of moving one student from Masters of Art in Teaching to Masters of Education.
 - B. P. Sheppard, as Co-chair of the Graduate School Dean Search Committee, provided an update on the Search Committee's activities. The Search Committee membership list was presented to the Graduate Council. A job ad was formulated by the Search Committee and would be placed, upon HR approval, in HigherEd.com, the Chronicle, and Job Keys. Applications will be accepted until August 15. The goal of the Search Committee is to have a new Dean of the Graduate School by January 1, 2015.
4. Old Business:
 - A. The Graduate Council addressed an outstanding recommendation of the Graduate Faculty Review Committee regarding one application for Graduate Faculty membership. In addition to reviewing the application, the Graduate Faculty Review Committee carefully considered the criteria laid out by the College in question in light of the recommendations from the Dean, Department Head, and College Peer Review Committee that Graduate Faculty status be denied. Due to a clause in the College's Criteria, the Graduate Faculty Review Committee requested clarification if it was proper for the application to be reviewed by this committee. M. Farmer-Kaiser noted that the recent recommendations of the Task Force on Graduate Education Governance called for review of applications denied at any level by the Graduate Faculty Review Committee. Motion made to deny application for level 1 Graduate Faculty status in accordance with the college criteria and in accordance with the decisions from the three levels of review. Motion seconded and passed with 5 votes for denial and 2 abstentions.
 - B. The Proposal for Implementation of the University Task Force on Graduate Education Governance Recommendations for the Graduate Faculty Application and Review Process was discussed, especially in regards to an appeal process for applications that are denied. Ultimately, a motion was made to remove the second sentence from point "E" of the Implementation Proposal and then correct the points' lettering. Motion seconded and passed. Motion made to add the following line to point "C" of the implementation proposal: the Graduate Council makes the final decision, although subject to appeal, on the basis of these recommendations on all applications for appointment to the Graduate Faculty." Motion seconded and passed.

5. Committee reports:
 - A. Student Appeals: No report.
 - B. Curriculum: Report prepared by Helen Hurst, not present, submitted. The report was accepted by the Graduate Council.
 - C. Fellowships: Report prepared and presented to the Graduate Council by Andrea Loewy. There were 22 applications for a University Master's Fellowship. Two of the original four choices of the Fellowship Committee accepted and two alternates accepted, filling all four spots. The report was accepted by the Graduate Council.
 - D. Graduate Faculty: No report.
6. New Business:
 - A. An election was held for the new Chair of the Graduate Council for the 2014-2015 academic year. P. Sheppard offered his gratitude to the Council members for their allowing him to serve as Chair for the past year. P. Sheppard was thanked for his service to the Council and the University as a whole. S. France was nominated for the position, though ultimately declined. Motion made to nominate D. Linton. Motion seconded and passed. D. Linton was thus elected as the new Chair of the Graduate Council for the 2014-2015 academic year.
 - B. An addition to the agenda was made in the form of an emergency appointment to the Graduate Faculty. A faculty member submitted a request to serve as Co-chair of a student's dissertation committee. The faculty member had served previously as a member of the Graduate Faculty and now functions as an adjunct instructor. Motion made to allow the faculty member to Co-chair the student's dissertation committee because the faculty member is currently an adjunct and is requesting chairing rights within two years of leaving the University as full-time faculty. Motion seconded based on previously stated policies of the Graduate Council. Motion passed.
 - C. The Graduate Council discussed the selection of a Grand Marshal for the first Summer Commencement ceremonies to be held in August 2014. A list of recent retirees from University was provided by M. Farmer-Kaiser and the Council discussed the faculty members to be considered. Motion made to nominate Judith Gentry. Motion seconded and passed.
7. Meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.