

May 12, 2015 Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council

Members Present: J. Albert, P. Auter, D. Baker, D. Bellar, C. Briggs, W. Ferguson, S. France, D. Harrington, H. Hurst, A. Khattab, D. Linton, A. Magidin, S. McNerny, D. Olivier, S. Ritchey, K. Smith, D. Wadsworth, M. Wright, M. Farmer-Kaiser (ex-officio member)

Members Absent: R. Cheek, J. Davis-McElligatt, T. DeNardo, G. Gjertson, J. Heels, R. Hernandez, A. Lakhotia, A. Loewy

The meeting was called to order by D. Linton at 2:04 p.m.

Announcements:

The Council voted to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2015 meeting.

The list of degree candidates was presented and accepted by the Council.

D. Linton informed the council that we had to switch the Spring and Summer Commencement Grand Marshals due to the scheduling needs of the two faculty who had been asked to serve in this honorary role. Dr. Darryl Felder shall serve as Grand Marshal for the Spring General Assembly, and Dr. Edward Cazayoux shall serve for the Summer ceremony.

Committee Reports:

Student Appeals Committee - No report.

Curriculum Committee - Report prepared and submitted by S. Ritchey. There were two courses, NURS 502 and NURS 507, for which the Curriculum Committee requested renumbering to simplify the prerequisites sequencing. M. Farmer-Kaiser explained that after speaking with Academic Affairs it was determined that renumbering of these courses may not be easily done and that it is not required at the graduate level. H. Hurst offered additional information to the council, explaining that the course numbers are determined by the Nursing Consortium and require a multi-University approval process. All present nonetheless understood the confusion the Curriculum Committee sought to remove. Motion made to approve Curriculum Committee report with amendment to accept NURS 502 and NURS 507 course numbers as requested on the course change forms by the department. Motion seconded and carried.

Fellowship Committee - No report. D. Linton formally thanked A. Loewy for her service on the Graduate Council as well as her time as chair of the Fellowship Committee.

Graduate Faculty Membership Review Committee - No report.

Old Business:

D. Linton put before the Council the approval of the revisions to the Graduate Faculty Membership Review Committee description. Michelle Feist, Chair of that Committee, provided

D. Linton with suggestions following last month's meeting regarding the Committee description revisions, but D. Linton noted that those suggestions were inconsistent with what the Council had decided during the April meeting. One of the point of concerns raised returned to an issue debated at the April Council meeting—that of whether the chair of this committee and the Dean of the Graduate School have the ability to forward to the Committee an application even if there is unanimity in the recommendations from the three college review entities. A. Magidin pointed out that if it were not simply an administrative role, then this authority would necessitate a review of all applications for “red flags,” which, he and others pointed out, was not the intent of those who proposed and those who approved the new policy. D. Bellar agreed that there was no middle ground with this issue. Either all applications are reviewed by the Graduate School Dean and Committee Chairperson for issues or none or reviewed. Picking and choosing applications to review would be arbitrary. D. Bellar concluded that the review was intended to be administrative only, with a surface review being required to determine if the recommendations from each of the three college review entities (Dean, Department Head, and College Peer Review Committee) do indeed match. The Council ultimately decided to leave the wording as is, while acknowledging that further discussion may be needed in the future. Next, D. Bellar noted possible confusion in the opening paragraph of the Committee description where it's implied that graduate faculty status alone is enough to direct both theses and dissertations, when in fact Level 1 and Level 2 membership determine respectively what one can direct. M. Farmer-Kaiser suggested adding in “and/or” to replace simply “and.” The Council agreed with that solution. Finally, A. Magidin discussed confusion with the second bullet point in the Committee description, noting that ambiguity exists over who actually makes the appointment of a member of this Committee to the various College Peer Review Committees. Ultimately, A. Magidin argued that this appointment is made by the Academic Deans and is thus, not a function of the Graduate Faculty Membership Review Committee. M. Farmer-Kaiser suggested removing the bullet point and placing the exact wording from the University Guidelines on Graduate Faculty Membership, “Each College Peer Review Committee shall include a member of the Committee on Graduate Faculty Membership from the affiliated college to serve as an ex-officio member,” in the Committee description document as a standalone sentence following the bullet points. Motion made to approve both the suggested revision and the full description of the Graduate Faculty Membership Review Committee Guidelines. Motion seconded and approved.

M. Farmer-Kaiser offered her thanks to the Ad Hoc Committee on Graduate Student Retention and Engagement, which included D. Bellar, D. Baker, H. Hurst, and D. Olivier. The Ad Hoc Committee discussed the charge, mission, and membership of a proposed University committee on graduate student retention, comparing proposed efforts with other universities carrying out similar initiatives. Members of the committee presented the proposal. M. Farmer-Kaiser noted that the Ad Hoc Committee recommended that three entities outside of the Graduate Faculty, including the Office of International Affairs, the Office of Diversity, and the Office of the Vice President for Research, be included in the membership of the committee. S. McNerny raised concern that this committee may become more interested in producing degrees in quantity rather than in quality. She then suggested including a line in the Mission Statement that acknowledges the desire to maintain quality while seeking to improve retention, and thus, graduation rates. D. Bellar argued though that including such a line would turn this Committee into something it is not, insisting that program review should happen elsewhere. D. Baker noted that that data could be revelatory for low completing programs as well as high completers. Are those programs

graduating the most students to lax with their standards and requirements? Discussion ensued. Motion made to add the phrase “without compromising the high quality of our graduate programs” to the end of the mission statement. Motion seconded and passed. Motion made to approve the Ad Hoc Committee’s proposal, as revised, to create a “University Committee on Graduate Student Success and Retention.” Motion seconded and carried. The proposal will be forwarded to Dr. Henderson for consideration and approval.

New Business:

D. Linton opened the floor for nominations for the new Chairperson of the Graduate Council for the 2015-2016 academic year. D. Baker nominated W. Ferguson. W. Ferguson accepted the nomination. D. Linton asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. There were no other nominations. Motion made to unanimously approve W. Ferguson as the new Graduate Council Chairperson. Motion seconded and passed. D. Linton thanked the members of the Council for their support of her over the last year and indicated her pleasure in working with excellent scholars and staff in the Graduate School. S. France spoke for the Council in thanking D. Linton for her time and devotion to the Graduate Council over the last year.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:38pm.