Graduate Council Minutes

October 18, 2013

Present:
Dr. Lowell Caneday, Vice-Chair
Dr. Brenda Smith, Group I
Dr. Stephen Clarke, Group I
Dr. Allen Scott, Group II
Dr. Randi Eldevik, Group II
Dr. Mark Wilkins, Group III
Dr. Albert Rosenberger, Group III
Dr. Marlys Mason, Group IV
Dr. Rebecca Sheehan, Group IV
Dr. Lynna Ausburn, Group V
Dr. Pamela Lloyd, Group VI
Dr. Earl Blewett, Group VI
Dr. Tom Oomens, Group VI

Graduate College:
Dr. Sheryl Tucker
Dr. Jean Van Delinder
Dr. Ken Clinkenbeard

Guests:
Dr. Lee Bird, Vice President for Student Affairs

Dr. Allen Scott, pro tem for Vice-Chair Lowell Caneday, called the meeting to order at 1:34 pm with a quorum present. The agenda was amended to hear a special report from Dr. Bird about a proposed policy on Student Employment.

Dr. Bird is soliciting feedback on a proposal to centralize posting of student jobs with Career Services, with the exception of those tied to academic programs such as RA’s and TA’s. Centralizing job listings will mean students would only need to fill out one application form for any of the available positions on campus. The proposal has already gone to the Provost, Faculty and Dean’s Council and will go back to Faculty Council for a vote of approval. Following a motion (Dr. Mark Wilkins) and a second (Dr. Rebecca Sheehan), Council endorsed the plan.

Discussion about the correct form of the minutes was followed by a motion (Dr. Mark Wilkins) and a second (Dr. Brenda Smith), to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on September 20th, with one abstention.

GPSGA report

Vice-Chair Caneday reported for GPSGA that last week they reviewed their financial commitments and some departments were notified of reduced allotments.
Graduate College Report

Dr. Sheryl Tucker reported that the Graduate College has increased the travel budget from $20,000 to $40,000 for graduate students’ travel; the source of funds, the Robberson trust, is restricted to US citizens. Since October is when the Graduate Faculty Group Meetings are held, Dr. Tucker informed the Council that though she has attended only one group meeting so far, she was pleased to report that attendance was better than in the past. Council members requested that the updated academic policies be posted on the Graduate College website. Dr. Ken Clinkenbeard reported that IT has experienced some difficulties enabling the CollegeNet application to communicate with SIS. Applications for Summer 2014 onward will be through the new online system. Training sessions will be provided for all units and will start to be scheduled in two weeks.

Old Business

Graduate Faculty Membership
Discussion resumed on appropriate categories for Graduate Faculty Membership. The two existing categories separate teaching duties (Affiliate) from chairing or serving on committees (Full). Greater flexibility is needed to add faculty to committees ad hoc without making them formal members of graduate faculty. Our current rules do not reflect the diversity of people who contribute to graduate education. The upcoming Group Meetings will be good opportunities to provide more input. Group III proposed membership review/renewals should be aligned to tenure and 5 year cumulative review. It was recommended that membership should terminate when someone retired or left the institution. It was decided to form a committee comprised of Group Chairs to review the membership categories. Dr. Van Delinder will chair the committee.

Update on various actions – The recommendation from the GTA report was discussed about increasing the credit hours from 1 to 2 for GRAD 5981 and GRAD 5991 along with the recommendation to change the grading system to a letter grade rather than Pass/No Pass (P/NP). The rationale for this change was to enhance courses based upon quality and quantity of content to 2 credit hours and change to a graded course. This change would take effect next year. The credit hour increase has already been discussed, but the grading issue is yet to be advanced. For students and advisors to properly manage these courses, the courses should be on respective POS and covered under tuition waiver. On a related issue of enrollment hours, OU went to block tuition and saw more hours taken.

New Business

The Academic Program Committee brought forward a request from the Master’s degree-creative component option in the Hotel and Restaurant Hospitality Program to reduce the number of hours from 34 to 32. Motion was seconded and approved.

The Academic Program Committee brought forward a program suspension for the University Faculty Preparation Certificate. Motion was seconded and approved.

Dr. Ken. Clinkenbeard passed out a syllabus template for courses related to research hours to help manage expectations in these types of courses. The Council will discuss at the next meeting.

The Affordable Healthcare Act (AHCA) does not exempt the existing student plan. Any GTA/GRA employed 30 hours or more per week must have the same benefits as full time employees. Some
universities are proposing using time cards to track hours worked, but hours reported are not necessarily hours worked.

Time to Degree and Degree Completion Data Workshops will be offered. These workshops are being held to help programs understand the broad patterns in enrollment, attrition and degree completion. This information will be provided to the Associate Deans for Research in each college first, followed by workshops on October 31st and November 7th for graduate coordinators.

**Other**

Vice Chair Caneday received a request from Provost to provide representatives to serve on the Eminent Faculty Review Committee. Dr. Mark Wilkins agreed to serve a 2-year term. Following a motion (Dr. Marlys Mason) and a second (Dr. Allen Scott), the motion was approved.

Adjourned 2:52 pm