Graduate Council Minutes
May 18, 2012

Present:
Dr. Lowell Caneday, Vice Chair
Dr. Allen Scott, Group 2
Dr. Tim Passmore, Group 5
Dr. Greg Sawyer, Group 6
Dr. Brenda Smith, Group 1
Dr. Pamela Lloyd, Group 6
Dr. Mark Wilkins, Group 3
Dr. William McGlynn, Group 1
Dr. Barry Lavine, Group 3

Graduate College:
Sheryl Tucker
Jean Van Delinder
Craig Satterfield

Guest:
Dr. Ron Van den Bussche
Dr. Scott Stoodley
Jeff Simpson

Called to order at 1:30 pm with a quorum present. Following a motion (Wilkins) and a second (Passmore) the minutes of April 20 were approved.

GPSGA Report
GPSGA expressed thanks to the Council for their support this past year. Rachael Eike is the new president and Nabil Rashdan is Vice President. Scott moved, McGlynn second, to commend Jeff Simpson for his work and support of Graduate Education.

Graduate College Report
Dr. Tucker reported Spring Commencement was the largest commencement with 672 students and over 300 faculty participating. The arena was set for 972 seats and we had to add 3 extra rows on each side. If anyone has thoughts, ideas, regarding Commencement, please send them to Dr. Tucker.
Dr. Tucker gave a new program update announcing that the MS in Aviation Science was approved by Board of Regents last week. The Provost had asked Dr. Tucker to form a task force for graduate student support issues. They will have draft recommendations at their June 5 meeting and then have comments ready to look at what we have to do to move forward with those recommendations. There will be a new student orientation this fall coordinated through the Graduate College, GPSGA and Student Affairs. Due to changes in employment requirements, international students who have employment contracts will need to come by the first week of August. There will be another ITA and GTA session before the fall semester. Dr. Chris Ormsbee is the new director for LASSO.
Other things the Graduate College is working on includes streamlining the appeals policy process. APC will likely need to meet in August, as we have one program in the works. We will try to get a date nailed down and push out to colleges.

**Old Business:**
Academic Program Reviews – Groups did not bring to any recommendations to Council. The reviews will go to the Regents without Council recommendations. Brenda Masters and Jeremy Penn are working on the templates. Academic Program Reviews need to go through Instruction Council and Graduate Council. This year, the process was delayed and it was difficult to finish them. The plan is to revise the form and process before next year. Since Academic Program Reviews are a State requirement, we have to do them.

**New Business:**
*ESGP – PSM Option* – Dr. Stoodley gave an overview of the proposed professional science masters (PSM) degree option for the Environmental Science Master’s degree. The PSM was recently approved by the Council of Graduate Schools and the ESGP is putting forward a request for the PSM option to the Board of Regents. OSU is the first institution of higher learning in the state to have a PSM degree. Stoodley briefed the council on the benefits of the PSM degree such as it provides students with a strong scientific background and an extensive practicum or internship in lieu of a thesis. Stoodley said it will appeal to Tulsa Environmental Science students as they tend to be more interested in technical degrees rather than a traditional academic degree.

Moved to approve (Scott), seconded (Sawyer), approved without discussion.

*Draft Definitions GTA/GRA* – There are new definitions for GTAs and GRAs. The GA position will no longer be used as of Fall 2012. A recent ruling from the IRS now means that tuition waivers provided to Graduate Assistants in excess of $5,250 are now taxable. Fortunately, only 7 OSU GA students were affected this spring, one significantly so. The ceiling is congressionally determined but will roll off in November. Several of our peer institutions had either phased out the GA title or they did not give them waivers. Definitions of the various employment categories have been developed with input from General Council and HR to eliminate the GA title. Units are working to reclassify them to the correct title and move the remaining GA positions to student workers.

Dr. Ron Van den Bussche and Gary Clark worked on refining the definitions and streamlined the titles. The intent is to be inclusive in the GTA or GRA definition. Even though the old ones are still in catalog, the new definitions after approval will go into the 2013-2014 catalog. Dr. Tucker will meet with fiscal officers in July and then will have a roll out with HR. Scott moved to endorse and Sawyer seconded.

A related concern is OSU is no longer competitive with stipends. Dr. Tucker is working to come up with a plan to increase stipends and overhaul waiver plan.

**New Group Officers:**
This spring the even numbered groups (2, 4 and 6) elected new vice chairs and secretaries
Group 2 –Chair, Dr. Allen Scott, Music; Vice Chair, Dr. Randi Eldevick, English; Secretary, Dr. Perry Gethner, Foreign Languages.
Group 4, Chair, Dr. Marlys Mason, Marketing; the newly elected Vice Chair is Dr. Amanda Morris, HDFS; Secretary Dr. Rebecca Sheehan, Geography.
Group 6, Chair, Dr. Pamela Lloyd, newly elected Vice Chair is Earl Blewett, Biochemistry and Secretary is Dr. Tom Oomens, Vet Med.
Other:

Tim Passmore handed out a draft on parliamentary procedure. We do not have to follow “Open Meeting” laws but our meetings are open. We will seek Gary Clark’s input.

Next meeting is August 17 @ 1:30 p.m. The Academic Program Committee will meet on Friday, August 10 @ 1:30 p.m.