Graduate Council Minutes
February 18, 2011

Council Members Present:
Dr. Barbara Stoecker, Group I
Dr. William McGlynn, Group I
Dr. Merrall Price, Group II
Dr. Rob Whiteley, Group III
Dr. Barry Lavine, Group III
Dr. Shelia Kennison, Group IV
Dr. Marlys Mason, Group IV
Dr. Kathleen Kelsey, Group V
Dr. Tim Passmore, Group V
Dr. Greg Sawyer, Group VI
Dr. Pamela Lloyd, Group VI

Graduate College:
Dr. Mark Payton
Dr. Craig Satterfield
Dr. Jean Van Delinder

Joseph Simpson, GPSGA

Dr. Rob Whiteley, substituting for Vice Chair Lowell Caneday, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Approval of January 21, 2011 minutes.

Following a motion (Price) and a second (Passmore) the minutes of the January 21, 2011 meeting were approved.

Introduction of Provost Robert Sternberg, Q&A.

Whiteley introduced Dr. Robert Sternberg, OSU Provost, to Council. After some brief introductions, Whiteley opened the floor for questions.

The Provost was asked to give his view on graduate education and its role at OSU. Sternberg stated that there were multiple facets to graduate education, including the development of analytical and critical thinking skills. He also noted that creativity played an important role in graduate education. He noted that it was important to determine what we want the student to have skill-wise, and what kind of citizen we wanted to the student to be at the end of his or her graduate degree.

The Provost was asked how OSU aligns with his idea of graduate education. He gave several idealized archetypes of past students who possessed different skills and how those skills served them in graduate study. These included creativity, the ability to perform well on standardized tests and in the classroom, among others. The Provost stressed that we need to be asking whether we are developing students. How can we create a focus whereby the
contribution of graduate education, through research, enhances the reputation of OSU? We should also consider whether our current admission criteria serve us well in getting the type of student we want at OSU. Sternberg acknowledged that the stipends for assistantships are not competitive with our peer institutions.

The Provost was asked about his view on the role of distance learning in graduate education. He replied that he was in favor of distance education because it provides educational access to people that wouldn’t otherwise have such access. However, he also noted that “being there is better.” Personal interaction and mentorship is important in training graduate students for the job market and on campus education provides for significant interaction with peers. Making those personal connections is very important.

Sternberg was asked about his opinion of doctorates other than the traditional Ph.D., such as professional doctorates. He stated that he was not opposed to such degrees but he stressed that the goals are fundamentally different. He feels that the graduate education should reflect the different goals of a Land Grant institution. We want a strong, diverse set of graduate programs.

The Provost stated that we should embrace the mission of producing leaders that will influence the world. We can accomplish this by selecting and developing faculty that will be leaders in their fields. We must accomplish this if we are going to be a top Land Grant institution. We should also provide the best possible environment for our students, both undergraduate and graduate.

Sternberg announced that he would like to attend a future Council meeting to hear Council’s goals.

GPSGA report – Joe Simpson reported that Research Week is scheduled for February 21-25 and there is still a need for moderators and judges. March 4 is the deadline for Phoenix and Teaching Assistant awards.

Graduate College Report

Satterfield reported that he engaged the Commencement Committee regarding the issues brought forth in January’s meeting. Gallagher-Iba Arena will stay open 1 ½ hours after the end of ceremony to provide time for graduates and families to celebrate. All we have to do is just tell the GIA staff and they will accommodate us. Getting more signs for photo opportunities is a bit more problematic. Satterfield visited with Jeff Sweeden in the Physical Plant. They could produce more signs, but at a cost of $3,000 each. Payton remarked that he wasn’t confident that this was in the Graduate College budget. Satterfield also reported on our Research Symposium. We are dealing with Student Union construction issues, and this has caused us to back off of our McNair initiative in relation to that portion of our conference. We will have 75 McNair students on campus next week to visit with departments. We need departments to work with us in recruiting these outstanding students.
New Program Requests/Changes

**MS in Forensic Sciences.** This request changed the name from “Forensic Science” to “Forensic Sciences” due to a clerical error in previous requests. Following a motion (Price), and a second (Stevens) motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

**Alterations in GF1 Forms.**
Passmore, who is chairing the subcommittee to revise the GF1 form, discussed various issues his committee is considering. The draft of the revised form will be presented at next month’s meeting.

**Policy on Acknowledgements in Theses/Dissertations.** – Van Delinder presented a proposal that removes the acknowledgement page from the template that is used for uploading a document to UMI. Van Delinder reminded Council that UMI does not require acknowledgements, but by OSU’s template having that page, students are interpreting this as a requirement. Payton also stressed that students are encouraged to have acknowledgements in written copies that are distributed to committee members or in their presentations at their defenses. It was asked whether acknowledgements could be added in a copy printed from UMI. Satterfield stated that he didn’t think it could be added at that point in time, but the student would need to have his or her thesis bound by another vendor if having acknowledgements included is important to them. A motion to remove the acknowledgements page in the template was made (Price) and seconded (Passmore). Motion carried unanimously. Payton added that the next step is to take this issue to GPSGA.

**Graduate Faculty Letter to Department Heads** – Payton reminded Council that last month, he shared the results of the report run on graduate courses taught by non-graduate faculty members for Fall 2010. Council requested that a similar report be run for Spring 2011, and Payton shared those results. He also distributed a copy of the letter that was sent to heads of departments with noncompliant faculty notifying them of the issue and reminding them of the process. This letter, sent via email, was co-signed by Payton and Vice Chair Caneday. Payton stated that this has been a very useful process. On one occasion, we learned that the faculty member was not in the database as the result of an error of the Graduate College. On a couple of other occasions, the department head was surprised that the faculty member was not a member. Payton stated that he has been contacted by many of the department heads as a result of this communication. However, there are many who have not responded. Group chairs are welcome to contact unit heads and stress the importance of having certified graduate faculty teaching graduate courses.

New Business

Since the third Friday is during Spring Break, the next meeting might either be March 11 or 25. Rosslyn will poll members.

Other
Whiteley reminded everyone that the finalist for the graduate dean position will begin interviewing next week and he encouraged councilors to participate in the process. Payton reminded everyone that final voting for graduate faculty membership is to take place in April.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm