Graduate Council Minutes
March 5, 2010

Council Members Present:

Dr. Lowell Caneday, Vice-Chair
Dr. William McGlynn, Group I
Dr. Merrall Price, Group II
Dr. Rob Whiteley, Group III
Dr. Xiang Fang, Group IV
Dr. Tanya Finchum, Group IV
Dr. Kathleen Kelsey, Group V
Dr. Tim Passmore, Group V
Dr. Lin Liu, Group VI

Graduate College:

Dr. Gordon Emslie
Dr. Mark Payton
Dr. Craig Satterfield

Guests:

Mr. Aravind Seshadri, GPSGA
Mr. Muthanna Abdulwahid, GPSGA

Approval of January 22, 2010 minutes.

Following a motion (McGlynn) and a second (Whiteley), the January 22, 2010 minutes of the Graduate Council were approved with minor corrections.

GPSGA report

Mr. Seshadri reported that the Research Symposium had gone very well. He also reported that a GPSGA resolution endorsing Open Access to Federally-Funded Research had been sent to Dr. McKeever’s office. Mr. Seshadri agreed to send a copy of the resolution to Ms. Orcutt to distribute to Council members.

OSU is hosting the NAGPS (National Association of Graduate and Professional Schools) South-Central regional conference on March 12-14.

In cooperation with OU, TU and OSRHE Vice Chancellor Houston Davis, GPSGA is attempting to form a graduate student advisory board to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

Mr. Seshadri then introduced the GPSGA intergovernmental liaison, Mr. Muthanna Abdulwahid, who reported on a recent meeting of graduate student groups in Washington, DC. Three main topics addressed there were: open access to federally-funded
research, restoring graduate stipends to the tax-free status they enjoyed some decades ago, and allowing international students on H1 visas to stay in the US after graduation.

**Graduate College Report**

Dr. Emslie reported that Instruction Council has, in response to the recent Graduate Council resolution, addressed the issue of standardizing the names of thesis (5000) and dissertation (6000) courses. Notices have been sent to departments advising them of the desirability of standardizing the names of these courses.

Dr. Emslie also reported that application numbers for Fall 2010 have increased over those of Fall 2009 overall, with domestic numbers increasing considerably and international numbers decreasing somewhat (but still at a very healthy number). He also reported that the Doctoral Candidacy reception held in February went well, although only about a third of the eligible candidates attended. Graduate Commencement is May 7, with Provost Marlene Strathe as speaker.

The resolution on graduate assistant privileges and limitations is still pending.

Dr. Payton reported that the online Plan of Study application is almost ready for testing, and an e-mail should go out to the Graduate Coordinators shortly affording them the opportunity to test this new feature, which it is hoped to release in the summer.

**New Business:**

*Program Reviews* – Dr. Emslie informed the Council members that the five-year program reviews were available on a Sharepoint site, and that he requested Group input this semester.

*Title Change for Graduate Certificate in International Studies.* A request was received to change the name of this graduate certificate to “Global Issues.” The principal motivation for this is to make it more obvious to students that the certificate can be earned separately from the master’s degree in International Studies; there is no change in the certificate’s content. A motion was made to approve (Price), followed by a second (Whiteley). The motion passed unanimously.

**Old Business**

*Proposed procedures for time to degree extensions.* Following the discussion at the last Council meeting, Dr. Payton distributed a draft document on guidelines for extension requests. There was considerable discussion as to whether the extension period should commence at (1) the expiry of the standard time for degree completion, or (2) at the time of the extension request. It was pointed out that in some cases the request for extension occurs some time after the allowed seven/nine (masters/doctoral) year period has expired. It was suggested that for such late extensions the period of further extension could be limited to one semester. Dr. Payton agreed to bring a clarified document for review at the next Council meeting.

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1 It was approved by Deans Council on March 11, 2010
Forms submitted to Graduate College by students. The Council was uncomfortable with examination results being delivered to Graduate College by students, but felt that the delivery of POS forms by the student was acceptable. Dr. Payton distributed revised examination result forms which make it clearer that the responsibility for delivering the results to the Graduate College belongs with the Committee Chair. These changes were accepted by the Council.

Graduate minors. The Council was reminded of the need to develop a proposed policy regarding graduate minors, regarding both content and the approval process.

Revisions to Group Bylaws. The Council noted that revising the Group bylaws to bring them into consistency with the new graduate faculty bylaws will be a topic at the Spring meetings of the Groups.

Other

The GREA applications have been distributed to the groups, who should notify the graduate College of awardees before the middle of April, in order to allow time for the names of the awardees to be published in the Commencement book.

Dr. Emile pointed out that the year 2011 will signify 100 years of graduate education at OSU, and that 2012 will be the 100th anniversary of the award of the first graduate degree. He suggested that, following other universities, we formally celebrate this in some way. The Council recommended that Dr. Emile approach Vice President McKeever with a proposal to organize a suitable celebration as part of Research Week for either 2011 or 2012.

The next Graduate Council meeting will be on April 23.