Graduate Council Minutes
April 15, 2011

Council Members Present:
Dr. Lowell Caneday, Vice-Chair
Dr. Barbara Stoecker, Group I
Dr. William McGlynn, Group I
Dr. Rob Whiteley, Group III
Dr. Lan Zhu, Group III
Dr. Karina Shreffler, Group IV
Dr. Kathleen Kelsey, Group V
Dr. Tim Passmore, Group V
Dr. Craig Stevens, Group VI

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

Guests:
Dr. Steve Marks
Dr. Robert Sternberg

Dr. Caneday called the meeting to order at 1:36 pm.

Approval of March 21, 2001 minutes

Following a motion (Whiteley) and a second (McGlynn) the minutes of March 21, 2011 meeting were approved.

GPSGA report

No GPSGA representative was present to give a report. Payton reported that the current GPSGA secretary, Jeff Simpson, was elected as the new GPSGA president. Caneday reminded Council that the Phoenix Awards Ceremony is April 21 at 4:00pm. They will also present the awards associated with the OSU Research Symposium and the award for outstanding graduate teaching assistant.

New Program Requests/Changes

MS in Aviation and Space – Dr. Steve Marks was representing the program. This program currently resides as an option in the Interdisciplinary Sciences MS degree, and program officials are seeking to have its own degree housed in the College of Education. Marks was asked about the possibility of a student in this program completing the degree with the thesis option. The current wording of the proposal does not allow for anything other than the creative component option. Marks replied that they haven’t had a thesis in their program for many years, but he acknowledged that it might be wise to have that flexibility. He agreed to put the thesis option in the proposal. Motion was made to
approve (Whiteley) with modifications, and seconded (Passmore). Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Membership nominations and renewals were presented by Shepard. Van Delinder reported that the Membership Committee (consisting of the group vice chairs) convened to review the recommendations of the groups. There was only one issue that arose from this meeting. Dr. Jason Kirksey, Associate Vice President for Diversity and Associate Professor in Political Science, has not had any publications since 2001 and thus did not meet minimum requirements for Graduate Faculty membership. It was suggested in the Membership Committee meeting that a special category could be created to accommodate faculty who have administrative appointments and are not as productive as a result. Council did not wish to make a change in the Graduate Faculty By-laws that would be required to establish this category. Van Delinder reported that the Group IV membership felt that Kirksey served graduate education in his department in other ways, such as advisory committee service and recruiting, that warranted renewing his membership. A motion (Whiteley) was made to approve all recommendations coming from the groups, with the exception of the Kirksey case, and that Dr. Kirksey provide Council with additional documentation regarding his role in graduate education in the Political Science program. The motion was seconded (Passmore) and was passed unanimously.

Provost Sternberg was present as a follow up to his last visit to Council. He asked if any Council members had any concerns or questions that were not addressed at his last visit. The Council asked about his views on outreach/distance education. Sternberg responded that he feels electronic learning is the way of the future, but he also believes that the on-campus university experience is superior to what a student experiences on-line. Kelsey remarked that our lack of centralized processes tends to marginalize our distance learning students. Sternberg asked Kelsey to send him an email with a list of concerns and he will take steps to finding solutions. Whiteley asked for clarification of the stated goal for OSU to become the best Land Grant University. How does one quantify such a goal? Sternberg stated that he has formed two task forces that will help define this issue. One task force, chaired by Robert Dooley, will help define what OSU aspires to be. Another task force, chaired by John Romans, will define what we measure to ascertain whether or not we are meeting our goals. Provost also shared his views on standardized testing and the importance of college students having a service component in their education. Questions were raised regarding how graduate certificates, professional graduate degrees, and interdisciplinary programs fit into our mission. The provost stated that all of these are very important. Certificates and professional degrees help us reach those we are meant to serve with our Land Grant mission. He also stated that interdisciplinary efforts are a priority of his, and he has recently announced an internal grant program that will help fund planning activities to establish interdisciplinary teaching and research programs.

Old Business

Alterations in GF1 Forms – Passmore gave a brief update on the status of the new GF1 form. After some suggestions from Council, he agreed to make additional alterations and present these at next meeting.
Election of Vice Chair – Payton announced that Caneday narrowly defeated Dr. Allen Scott. Unfortunately, only 34 votes were cast. Caneday asked for comments from the Council, and he was urged to remain as Council Vice Chair given the many changes in administration and the need for continuity. Caneday accepted the results of the election. Scott will be advised of the vote and he will be encouraged run again.

Graduate College Report

Van Delinder reported that the Graduate College is considering a request from Associate Provost Pam Fry to establish an advisory group for associate deans who have responsibilities for graduate education. Many of these associate deans feel that they are not fully informed of the issues that Council considers and passes. Payton mentioned that we have two options. One would be to form this group that would meet some time after Council meets, or we could simply invite these associate deans to our Council meetings so they can get this information firsthand. Council had no objection to inviting these administrators to our meetings. Payton and Van Delinder will discuss this further.

Van Delinder announced that the on-line plan of study is scheduled to go active June 1.

Payton reminded Council that the Graduate Commencement is on May 6. Our speaker is Dennis Preston, Regents Professor in the Department of English.

Payton announced that five OSU students recently received NSF Graduate Research Fellowships, and they will be recognized at appropriate commencement ceremonies.

Other

The University Registrar requested input from Council regarding the possible reuse of graduate course numbers. The proposal is to reuse numbers that have been inactive for at least 15 years. Payton stressed that our ten year rule, which has been waived only in the case of military service, provides protection from most problems that reuse of numbers creates. Following a motion (Whiteley) and a second (Stoecker) to support proposal, the motion carried unanimously.

It was unclear that we would have quorum for a May meeting, so Council members will be contacted regarding this possibility. New officers take office on June 1.

Payton also announced that OSU will be interviewing a candidate for the dean’s position on April 21-22. Dr. Sheryl Tucker, currently at NSF and on leave from the University of Missouri will visit campus, and Graduate Council has the opportunity to meet with her on Thursday, April 22, at 2 pm. Payton remarked that her campus forum conflicted with the Phoenix Award ceremony.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:09 pm