Graduate Council Minutes
September 26, 2008

Present:

Dr. Lowell Caneday, Vice-Chair
Dr. Brad Kard, Group I
Dr. Barbara Stoecker, Group I
Dr. Allen Scott, Group II
Dr. Merrall Price, Group II
Dr. Ziad El Rassi, Group III
Dr. Rob Whiteley, Group III
Dr. B. Jin, Group IV
Dr. Sandee Goetze, Group V
Dr. Kathleen Kelsey, Group V
Dr. Lin Liu, Group VI
Ms. Mumbe Kithakye, GPSGA

Graduate College:

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

Approval June 20, 2008 minutes

Following a motion (Scott) and a second (Kard), the June 20, 2008 minutes of the Council were approved.

GPSGA Report

- The welcome reception was very well attended; even so, further improvements will be made for next year.

- Agreement has been reached with the Graduate College on travel awards funding for the year.

- Dr. Wangari Maathai, Nobel peace prize winner, will be at OCU next week; students are encouraged to attend.

- Paul Merriman will present a financial seminar November 5-9.

Graduate College Report

Enrollment Numbers – Graduate enrollment is up 138 students over last year, based largely on more returning students. Recognizing that graduate applications were up some
30%, the Graduate College is asking the departments to provide thresholds for prospective students in order not to actively encourage applications when there is little hope for acceptance (all applications will still, of course, be accepted).

Five-Year Program Reviews – These will be distributed in early Spring. Group I has 3 programs, Group II has none, Group III has 2, Group IV has 5 and Groups V and VI have none.

Old Business

Update on RCR - Dr. Emslie distributed the list of RCR-based courses submitted by graduate coordinators in response to a request from a previous Council meeting, and he reminded the Council of the need to come up with a recommendation on how every graduate student will receive formal training in RCR. Whiteley indicated that it would be difficult to require each student to take an additional course, and that the material could be included in existing courses with names such as “Introduction to Research Methodology.” Price noted that such courses can be rather subject-specific, so that not all such courses would have broad application to other programs. El Rassi suggested students attend “something” during Orientation Week to satisfy RCR requirements.

Dr. Caneday suggested that this matter be brought up in the Fall Group meetings, and Dr. Emslie suggested that a small subcommittee could meet with each Group to acquire information and report back to the Council.

The Graduate College agreed to provide a breakdown of all graduate degree programs by Subject Matter Groups and to distribute this to the Group Officers. Dr. Caneday will take responsibility for the gathering of input and will report to the Council during its November meeting.

Members for Regents Professor Committee (Groups I and IV) - Drs. Kard (Group I) and Jin (Group IV) indicated that they would provide names of committee members to Dr. Gates and inform the Graduate College accordingly.

New Business

Graduate Faculty Status - Dr. Emslie informed the Council of several actions and requests aimed at improving the validity and usefulness of the graduate faculty database.

(1) Temporary Status – Department heads have been sent an announcement notifying them that all individuals in the old “temporary” status will be deleted from the database at the end of the Fall semester. If there are individuals still in this status that wish to continue as graduate faculty, nomination renewal forms for regular Membership should be submitted this Fall.
(2) Courses Taught for Graduate Credit – Dr. Emslie informed the Council that the Deans had been provided with a list of Fall 2007 courses offered for graduate credit that had assigned instructors who were neither Members nor Affiliates of the graduate faculty. He emphasized the need for appointment of individuals to graduate faculty status in advance of their being assigned courses eligible for graduate credit, but did indicate that in many cases the courses in question was a 4000* course, in which it is possible that no graduate students were enrolled.

(3) Renewal Dates and Terms – According to the Graduate Faculty Bylaws, the term for an Affiliate is one year, while the term for members varies by group – from 3 years to unspecified. Dr. Emslie reminded the Council of the need for the Graduate College to be aware of renewal dates. He encouraged the Groups to provide this information, and for Groups with unspecified renewal dates to consider amending their Bylaws to incorporate a renewal term.

(4) Removal vs. Non-reappointment – Dr. Emslie stressed that, since holding graduate faculty status is effectively decoupled from administrative actions relating to faculty appointment and termination, it would be wise for all Group Bylaws (and in particular in cases where there is no graduate faculty renewal date) to incorporate a procedure or guidelines for removal of graduate faculty status. Dr. Caneday agreed to draft words for the Groups to consider.

4000/9000 cross listing of courses – Dr. Payton discussed a proposal to identify 4000-level courses offered for graduate credit, not through the presence of an asterisk, but rather through the creation of a parallel 9000-level course. This would clearly identify students seeking graduate credit and the need (or lack of it) for a member of the graduate faculty to be assigned to the course. The 4xyz and 9xyz courses would be offered concurrently and in the same location. The change would require no submission of Change of Course forms, since the intent is already clear. There was a motion by Whiteley, seconded by Goetze, to adopt the proposal, with the further recommendation that, in order to avoid possible confusion regarding the hierarchy of course levels (5000, 6000, 9000), the Graduate College seeks alternatives to the leading “9” digit in the implementation of the scheme.

Subject Matter Group Organization – The Council considered a request to reconsider the organization of departments within Subject Matter Groups. As part of the ensuing discussion, the Group IV officers agreed to try and expand their Council membership across as many colleges as possible.

Graduate Minors – Dr. Payton presented a proposal to replace graduate minors (for which there is no university-wide approval process) with Graduate Certificates. Discussion was postponed until the October meeting.

Graduate Credit for Seniors – Dr. Payton presented a proposal to require undergraduates seeking graduate credit under Academic Regulation 4.7 to have a
minimum GPA of 3.0. In the course of discussion, the Council brought up other puzzling and misleading items within this Academic Regulation. While a full discussion was postponed until the October meeting, Kelsey moved, and Goetze seconded, an interim “sense of the Council” resolution for the Graduate College to invoke paragraph 6 of Academic Regulation 4.7 to require a 3.0 GPA for students seeking such credit.

Other

Next meeting October 24, 2008

Meeting adjourned at 3:14 pm.