MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES

September 29, 2014 at 4pm

Graduate Council Chair William F. Tate, Dean of the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, called the meeting to order at 3:59 p.m. in the Danforth University Center, Room 276. Approximately 59 graduate students and faculty members attended.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Dean Tate opened his report by reminding Graduate Council representatives of their role as an agent of communication between the Council and their respective departments.

Dean Tate then introduced the various sub-committees of the Graduate Council and asked their members to introduce themselves.

The Executive Committee consists of eight elected members, four of which could be asked to serve on a committee hearing should one be required due to an academic integrity violation. The Executive Committee has met and discussed the plans for the upcoming academic year. Prof. Rich Loomis, Chemistry, serves as Chair.

The Policies & Services Committee works with the Dean to develop and manage Graduate School policies. Prof. Bill Clark, Speech & Hearing, serves as Chair.

The Teaching & Professional Development Committee focuses on issues related to graduate student teaching assistants as well as broader graduate student career and professional development. Prof. Rich Loomis, Chemistry, serves as Chair.

II. Consideration/Approval of the Minutes

The Graduate Council reviewed and approved the minutes of its April 24, 2014 meeting as presented.

III. Consideration/Approval of New Degree Candidates

The final list was sent to members of the Graduate Council prior to the meeting. The Council reviewed and unanimously approved the list as it was presented.

IV. Dean’s Report

Dean Tate provided the Annual Report of Academic Integrity and announced that one Ph.D. student admitted to plagiarism, one Ph.D. student admitted to forging the name of another student on attendance rolls and sharing project and homework with that student, and one Ph.D. student admitted to falsifying the signature of his dissertation advisor on paperwork required to document the completion of a degree requirement for the Ph.D. and to misrepresenting his student status on the requirement.

Dean Tate addressed the new Involuntary Leave Policy that was put together for students that are in difficult situations. The policy has been implemented to find ways to support students in need. The policy is now available on the Graduate School Website.

Dean Tate announced that he will continue to meet with departments for planning purposes. In addition, evaluations of graduate programs are forthcoming. Dean Tate pointed out that these evaluations are not departmental evaluations, but evaluations considering graduate programs as a whole in an effort to collect feedback and/or data that will serve to communicate what is happening in graduate education.
Dean Tate encouraged the Council to be creative about graduate education. During this year’s new student orientation close to 100% of incoming graduate students indicated that they want to go into academia. Dean Tate encouraged realization that the academic job market has shrunk considerably, and asked Council members to think about what can be done to provide graduate students with professional opportunities to prepare them for the realities of the job market.

V. Report of Graduate Student Senate Co-Presidents

Graduate Student Senate (GSS) Co-Presidents Ashley Macrand, Ph.D. student in Education and Vice President of Professional Development of the Graduate Professional Council (GPC), and BrieAnna Langlic, Ph.D. student in Anthropology, presented the report of the GSS.

The Graduate Student Senate’s main goal this year is to link GSS and GPC. The first step taken towards collaboration was the Annual New Student Welcome BBQ, for which GSS and GPC pooled financial resources. A new addition to the BBQ was a resource fair that provided new students information about the various resources available on campus. Over 500 students attended (compared to 98 last year).

GSS addresses various graduate student concerns including off-campus housing, health services (extended to include mental health and wellness), legislative actions, and diversity and inclusiveness.

The Diversity and Inclusiveness Committee of the GSS and the Liberman Graduate Center co-sponsored the event “Unveiled” which took place on Saturday, September 27, 2014. The one-woman show was followed by a discussion with actor/author Rohina Malik. The Diversity and Inclusiveness Committee hopes to establish a reading list and a series of discussion forums to discuss contemporary issues impacting the Washington University community. The committee is also working on a diversity report put together from feedback collected from graduate students during a Spring 2014 roundtable discussion at which students shared their experiences and concerns in regard to diversity and inclusiveness. The report will be available at the end of October with the goal to promote conversation.

GSS Senator Ashley Wilson is currently in DC attending the “Action Days” lobbying for better student loans, recognition of graduate student visa-issues (revalidation of visa is currently only available outside of the country), as well as federal research funding. The GSS will hold an informational function soon at which the representative will provide a full report.

The GSS wants to develop a strategic action plan based on graduate students concerns. Senate committees have been asked to devise a data collection by end of semester from which the strategic plan can be developed. Dean Tate indicated that he is in full support of the plan and looks forward to working with GSS.

VI. Title IX and Reporting Responsibilities for Faculty and Graduate TAs & RAs

Jessica Kennedy, Title IX Coordinator, spoke on Title IX, the federal law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex, and the university policy in support of Title IX. She emphasized that Title IX includes sexual harassment as well as sexual violence on campus. The full policy and a list of what is considered sexual harassment/sexual violence can be found on sexualviolence.wustl.edu and on the HR website. She informed the Council about the necessity to spread the word about resources available as well as about the responsibilities of any responsible employee (faculty, staff, TAs, RAs) to take certain steps when s/he receives a report either by the victim directly, through a third party, or by an overheard conversation about the subject matter. The responsible employee is required to inform the Dean, Tamara King, Director of Judicial Programs, and/or Jessica Kennedy within 24 hours. Employees should not act beyond reporting, and cannot guarantee complete confidentiality; they should encourage victims that any information shared will be treated with care. The employee should also encourage the victim to report the incident to the police, and may refer them to confidential resources available on campus such as S.A.R.A.H, Uncle Joe’s, Student Health Services personnel, including Kim Webb, Director of Sexual
Assault and Community Health Services, who can assist with medical care, housing, support and information about additional resources.

VII. Department Implementation Plan for Policy on Probation & Dismissal for Academic Reasons

Prof. Bill Clark, Chair of the Policies and Service Committee, reported on the Policy on Probation and Dismissal for Academic Reasons. Dean Richard J. Smith, former Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, put forward above policy last year, which was approved unanimously at last last Graduate Council meeting. The policy was disseminated and invitations were sent to departments to send in their policies to be implemented in the policy. Prof. Clark informed the Council that he has received a handful of policies from departments and would like to encourage those who have not submitted it yet to do so by the end of October. Additionally, each department is advised to make the policies available to students in their department handbook.

VIII. Action to Consider and Approve New Graduate Courses

The list of new graduate courses was sent to members of the Graduate Council prior to the meeting. The Council reviewed and unanimously approved the list as it was presented.

IX. New Business

The Chancellor’s Graduate Fellowship program, directed by Associate Dean Sheri Notaro, will host Dr. Carl Hart as he delivers the 18th Annual Chancellors Graduate Fellowship Conference keynote address on Friday, October 10, 2014 at 11 a.m. in the Law School’s Moot Courtroom. The title of the talk is: Demystifying the science drug addiction: Neuroscience, self-discovery, race, and U.S. drug policy. A panel discussion, book signing and reception follow at 2 p.m. in Umrah Lounge.

The 40th annual Olin Fellowship Conference will be held on Friday, October 31 at 11 a.m. in Graham Chapel. The topic is “How Climates Change.” Keynote speaker Dr. Jane Lubchenco, first female head of NOAA, will discuss both her own research on literal climate change and the general changes in science with regard to the figurative climate for women. A panel discussion at 2 p.m. in McMillan Café will feature Dr. Lubchenco, Professors Lee Epstein and Victoria Fraser from the Danforth and Medical Campuses, and Susan Moore, President of St. Louis-based Urban Strategies.

In response to a question posed by a Council member regarding a graduate fellowship program in current fundraising effort, Dean Tate informed the Council that The Graduate School is working on a strategic plan to secure funds from Alumni & Development to invest in graduate education.

Dean Tate announced that Dean Elaine Berland, Associate Dean of the Graduate School and Director of Graduate Affairs, will be leaving the Graduate School in mid October. Dean Tate acknowledged her many contributions to The Graduate School and to the graduate student community, and thanked her for her 20+ years of service to Washington University.

X. Adjournment

Dean Tate adjourned the meeting at 4:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

S. Dijavadghazaryans

Angineh Dijavadghazaryans, Germanic Languages & Literatures
Recording Secretary to the Graduate Council 2014-15