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

February 11, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

Graduate Council Chair William F. Tate, Dean of the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. in the Jordan Formal Classroom, Danforth University Center Room 276. Approximately 54 graduate students and faculty members attended.

I. Consideration/Approval of the Minutes

The Graduate Council reviewed and approved the minutes of its November 11, 2014 meeting as presented.

II. Dean’s Report

Dean Tate opened his report with updates on the recent event “Race & Ethnicity: A Day of Discovery and Dialogue,” a university-wide event held on February 5 and 6, 2015. This was a 24-hour period where Washington University dealt with race and ethnicity within the university context. The events took place on the Medical and Danforth Campus with over 800 registered attendees and approximately 2200 people who streamed the event online in multiple states. Selected delegates will serve as ambassadors to represent the ideas that were presented during the event.

Dean Tate pointed out that a highlight of the event for him was when students in the audience stood up and presented 16 points on what should be done to improve diversity issues at Washington University. Two of these points are echoed in the diversity report put forward by the Graduate Student Senate. First, graduate students are seeking greater diversification of the graduate student population on campus. Dean Tate explained that the Graduate School and other programs are proactively attempting to make Washington University a destination university for students from all backgrounds with an interest and talent for discovery and scholarship. Dean Tate has prioritized the students' concerns on this front. A second common concern called for upgrading graduate student housing and related support services. There have been conversations taking place on multiple levels to address some of the issues. Dean Tate concluded his report by commending the students and reaffirming his support for their efforts.

III. Report of Graduate Student Senate Co- Presidents

Graduate Student Senate (GSS) Co-President BrieAnna Langlie, a Ph.D. student in Anthropology, presented the report of the GSS.

GSS updates:

- The Library Committee is actively researching and collaborating with library staff to meet graduate students’ needs. Currently, the committee is asking for acquisitions, particularly a service from ProQuest that allows downloading of digital dissertations from other universities.
- The Health Committee participated for the first time in health insurance bids. Director of Health Services, Alan Glass, has invited graduate students to participate in the meetings and voice their needs in regard to health insurance. Currently, graduate student health insurance does not cover...
injuries as a result of protest. All health insurance companies being considered have agreed to cover these types of injuries next year. Other requests made are vision and dental coverage. Coverage for these requests has not yet been confirmed.

- The 20th Annual Graduate Student Research Symposium will take place on February 21, 2015 in Whitaker Hall. Presenters will share their research in poster format from 12:00-2:00 p.m. followed by a Reception and Award Ceremony. 64 students are presenting at the symposium this year—the largest number of participants so far. In preparation, GSS held a poster presentation workshop in collaboration with the Writing Center on February 11, where 22 students attended.

- The Annual Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award Ceremony and Reception will take place on April 9, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. in the Women’s Building Formal Lounge. The GSS is currently soliciting nominations. The deadline for submissions is March 6, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. Nominations can be submitted through the GSS website.

- The Off-Campus Housing Committee is planning to hold a roundtable. They will invite graduate students to talk about their needs in regard to housing. The committee will additionally ask every department’s administration about how they handle off-campus information. The committee will then have a second meeting with Quadrangle Housing in late March to pass on the information collected and to start a dialogue.

- The Diversity Committee recently released a diversity report, which is a product of a roundtable that took place in Spring 2014 as a result of a long ongoing discussion, in which graduate students shared their experiences with diversity on campus. The report reflects the results of this event. The diversity report has established promising dialogue between administration and students.

- The Sexual Assault Advisory committee, a new committee of the GSS, will hold their first event on Thursday, February 11, 2015 at 5:00-7:00 p.m. in Liberman Graduate Center, DUC 300. The event will be in the form of an open forum. Sergeant Bob Wayne and members of the Student Health Services Administration will be speaking followed by a discussion about sexual assault and student. Graduate students are encouraged to come join the discussion. Additionally, the committee is starting a website with information about graduate students’ rights in cases of sexual assault in order to provide graduate students current and readily available information.

IV. Report of Policies & Services Committee

Chair Prof. William Clark, Speech and Hearing, presented the report of the Policies & Services Committee. The committee continues to work on the implementation plan for all Ph.D. programs to have a Policy on Probation and Dismissal for Academic Reasons. Plans for 32 departments have been approved, with 4 remaining plans currently under revision. The committee is pleased to report that as a result of this initiative, the Graduate School is able to offer a much more standardized policy across all Ph.D. programs.

V. 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.

VI. New Business

Announcements:

- Dean Kimberly Curtis is overseeing the committee working on off-campus housing. Please contact her should you have any inquiries.
• The final Graduate Council meeting for the 2014-15 academic year will take place on April 22\textsuperscript{nd}, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. in Lab Sciences Room 250

• The Annual Dean’s Award for Teaching Excellence Ceremony & Reception will take place on April 23, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. in the Women’s Building Formal Lounge; the deadline for nominations is February 20, 2015.

• Dean Tate introduced Diana Hill Mitchell, Associate Dean for Policy and Program Analysis, who has recently joined the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Dean Mitchell will work on analytics and data analysis around graduate education.

\textbf{VII. Adjournment}

Dean Tate adjourned the meeting at 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

\underline{A. Djavadghazaryans}

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