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

February 9, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

Graduate Council Chair William F. Tate, Dean of the Graduate School, called the meeting to order 4:02 p.m. in the Danforth University Center, Room 276. Approximately 60 graduate students and faculty members attended.

I. Consideration/Approval of the Minutes
The Graduate Council reviewed and approved the minutes of its November 2, 2015 meeting as it was presented.

II. Consideration/approval of the list of the candidates for advanced degrees, December 2015
The Graduate Council reviewed and approved the candidates for advanced degrees as it was presented.

III. Dean’s Report
Dean Tate opened his report by commenting on this year’s hooding ceremony (agenda item 9). The Hooding Ceremony will take place on May 19, 2016, 4pm, in the Varsity Gym at the Athletics Complex. Detailed information is on the Graduate School website. The decision on whether there will be a reception immediately after the Hooding Ceremony or after commencement the next day has not been finalized yet.

A survey on the experiences and needs regarding to graduate student housing was sent out as part of the strategic planning to improve graduate student housing. Dean Tate sent out an email with the survey that most graduate students should have received. He encourages all graduate students to participate. Based on the survey results, a new portfolio for graduate student housing related to WU will be available to the incoming graduate students.

The Graduate School of Arts & Science’s name is now listed as “The Graduate School.” This is the result of a program analysis which revealed that the full name was confusing and that the “Arts & Sciences” portion of the name did not embrace the wide range of doctoral degrees awarded. The new name will be used from this point forward.

A Council member asked if students will be able to request the information of the housing survey once the data is analyzed. Dean Tate informed everybody that the information will be made available upon request.

IV. Report of Graduate Student Senate Co-Presidents
Graduate Student Senate (GSS) Co-Presidents Pierre Haeneecour, a PhD student in Earth & Planetary Sciences, and Nisha Iyer, a PhD student in Biomedical Engineering, presented the report of the GSS.

GSS updates:
- The Call for Proposals for the annual Graduate Research Symposium yielded a total of 75 abstract submissions this year. It will take place on February 23, 2016, 3-5pm, in Bauer Hall’s Atrium. The Symposium will be followed by a keynote address by Dean Barbara Schaal as well as the announcement of the winners of the Symposium and the GSS travel awards winners in Emerson Auditorium.
- Letters in support of faculty or staff members for the Outstanding Faculty and Staff Awards can be submitted until March 1, 2016. The award ceremony will take place April 7, 2016, 4pm, in the Women’s Building Formal Lounge.
- Sustainability event: Happy hour for graduate students on February 9, 5-6:30pm.
- GSS Sexual Assault committee event: “Speed dating for safe dating” to discuss dating practices and sexual violence on February 10, 6-8pm.
- Updates were made to the Student Health Service website which will be published soon. These updates involve student health insurance, mental health, etc.

Washington University in St. Louis, Campus Box 1187, One Brookings Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63130-4899
(314) 935-6880, Fax: (314) 935-4887, www.graduateschool.wustl.edu
V. Report of the Policies & Services Committee Chair
Prof. William Clark (Speech & Hearing Sciences) presented the report.

The committee met on December 10 to consider the enrollment status proposal and the credit deregulation policy. The enrollment status proposal is still under consideration. Five classes of enrollment status were identified: regular, in absentia, dissertation completion, candidacy continues, leave of absence.

Upon reviewing the credit deregulation policy, the Committee recommended the policy for approval by the Council.

VI. Action to approve doctoral degree credit deregulation policy
The proposal was sent to members of the Graduate Council prior to the meeting. A friendly amendment was made to the policy.

The vote on the policy yielded the following result: Yes: 45; No: 2; Abstentions: 1

Based on this majority vote, the doctoral degree credit deregulation policy is approved by the Graduate Council. The 2016 cohort of incoming graduate students will start their respective degree programs under the new guidelines. Each academic unit can make a decision as to whether or not they want to apply the new rules to continuing students.

VII. Binding of Dissertation & Theses
Detailed information about the new standards and procedures for the binding of dissertations and theses was sent out to all the degree-granting programs. The website to request the binding of theses or dissertations is wustl.thesisondemand.com. Departments that don’t have a pro-card either need to ask their students to order their copies, or their staff to use their pro-card for the purchase.

A Council member wanted to know whether the person who is ordering copy has to upload the PDF copy of the dissertation/thesis. Dean Pope explained that the service is not connected to the WashU Libraries’ Open Scholarship website, or ProQuest, so the document has to be uploaded when an order is placed.

VIII. Dean’s Award for Teaching Excellence Ceremony
Please note a change in location for the next Council meeting. It will take place on April 21, 4-5:30pm in the Women’s Building Formal Lounge to include the Dean’s Award for Teaching Excellence Ceremony. The ceremony will start right after the Council meeting. A reception will follow the ceremony.

IX. 2016 Hooding Ceremony
See agenda item III. Dean’s Report for details.

X. 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.

XI. New Business
There were no announcements or new business items at this point.

XII. Adjournment
Dean Tate adjourned the meeting at 4:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Simone Pfleger, Germanic Languages & Literatures
Recording Secretary to the Graduate Council 2015-16