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

February 4, 2013 at 4 p.m.

Graduate Council Chair Richard J. Smith, Dean of The Graduate School of Arts &
Sciences, called the meeting to order at 4 p.m. in the Danforth University Center, Room
276. Approximately 68 graduate student and faculty members attended.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Dean Smith introduced the agenda for the day, and extended his sympathies for Melanie
Michailidis, Ph.D., the Korff Post-doctoral Fellow in Islamic Art in the Department of Art
History and Archaeology, who was killed in an automobile accident.

II. Consideration/approval of the Minutes

The Graduate Council reviewed and approved the minutes of its October 10, 2012 meeting
as presented.

III. Dean’s Report

Dean Smith presented an update on next year’s Danforth Campus student health plans.
While many details are still not clear, Dean Smith communicated the following known
changes:
a. Student health insurance for academic year 2013-2014 will be approximately twice
what it cost for the 2012-2013 academic year. Current estimate is $1400 per student;
The Graduate School plans to continue its subsidy (90%) for eligible PhD students.
MA student health insurance coverage will be different; questions should be directed
to Dean Smith.
b. University insurance will no longer be mandatory; graduate students will be able to
opt out if they carry nationally recognized healthcare insurance from another carrier.
The Danforth Campus Student Health Center will accept and bill all insurance
 carriers. No final details on the hard waiver system are available at this time.
c. A mandatory $300 student health fee is being instituted; eligible Ph.D. students will
receive a subsidy (90%) from The Graduate School of Arts & Sciences. Dean Smith
stressed that students should read carefully emails communicating new insurance
coverage and costs as well as other changes.
d. There will be prescription coverage; final costs are unknown at present.
e. The healthcare insurance costs for graduate students with dependents are also
expected to be much higher than current costs.
f. Dean Smith recently met with GSS officers, who are continuing to meet with Director
of Health Services, Dr. Alan Glass.

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Dean Smith announced that the deadline for nominations for the Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence is March 15, 2013. The ceremony will be held April 25th at the next Graduate Council Meeting which will be held in the Women's Building Formal Lounge; recognition certificates and a $1500 cash award will be given to each recipient. The Dean also announced that the application process for two graduate student representative positions to the Board of Trustees is now open. Applications are due February 11, 2013.

Dean Smith next discussed the process for termination of Ph.D. students at Washington University. Departments should give a student a written statement of the academic performance that has not been satisfactory; information about changes the student should take to improve performance; deadline(s) by which to accomplish the changes, and consequences for not meeting the deadline(s). Upon initiating this process, departments should forward a copy of the letter to the Graduate School Dean's Office. Recommendations to dismiss a student should be submitted after the student has failed to make changes.

Dean Smith advised that 2012-13 marks the 5th year of his tenure as the Dean of the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, and that he plans to return to his faculty position in the Department of Anthropology July 1, 2014.

IV. Report of Graduate Student Senate Co-President

GSS Co-President Aysegul Turan, Comparative Literature, presented the report of the Graduate Student Senate. Since the last meeting, the GSS held three monthly meetings, with an approximate attendance of 20 senators at each. The upcoming 18th annual Graduate Student Research Symposium will be taking place on February 16, 2013. The GSS requested faculty to attend, as well as help to identify non-STEM departmental judges. Students can sign up to be judges for The Graduate Research Symposium at the Graduate Student Senate website. The Co-President also announced that nominations are open for the 14th annual Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award, with a deadline of March 8, 2013.

V. Report from Teaching and Professional Development committee

Committee Chair Professor Richard Loomis, Chemistry, reported that the Teaching and Professional Development Committee convened and heard a report on a Teaching Center series for developing pedagogy for STEM areas from Dr. Beth Fisher, Associate Director. The Committee’s other charge this year is reviewing the Annual Online TA Survey conducted in April-May, and executive summary reports.

VI. Consideration and Approval of New Courses

Associate Dean Nancy Pope presented the list of new graduate courses for Fall of 2013 in the absence of Ann Cooper, Registrar. The Graduate Council voted unanimously to approve the list as presented.
VII. Skandalaris Center for Entrepreneurship Citation

Ken Harrington, Director of the Skandalaris Center for Entrepreneurship, is developing a new citation program for graduate and professional students that will provide training and opportunities to develop entrepreneurial skills. Dean Smith noted that the Skandalaris Center citation is similar to Teaching Citation; he has approved putting the citation, upon completion, on a student's university transcripts.

VIII. Report from the Teaching Center

Dr. Beth Fisher, Director of Academic Services at The Teaching Center, announced future expansion of graduate-student programs at teaching center. Building on success of the Teaching Citation and WU-CIRTL programs, The Teaching Center has developed a new professional-development program, in consultation with Dr. Deanna Barch, the Graduate Council’s Teaching and Professional Development Committee, and graduate students. The new program was developed in response to a graduate-student survey concerning the teaching citation. A major finding was that many students were quite interested in the Citation, but unable to teach for the required three semesters. The Teaching Center’s new program, Preparation in Pedagogy, will require eight training experiences, as well as teaching (and being observed and evaluated in) one semester of teaching. The new program also requires writing of teaching philosophy statement, which candidates will need when applying for faculty positions. The Preparation in Pedagogy program will be formally implemented in the Fall 2013 semester.

IX. New Business

No new business was presented.

X. Adjournment

Dean Smith adjourned the meeting at 4:45PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher A. Born, East Asian Languages and Cultures
Recording Secretary to the Graduate Council 2012-2013