

# **MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

**April 19, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.**

Dean Richard J. Smith called the meeting to order on Monday, April 19, at 4:00 p.m. in the Jordan Formal Classroom, Danforth University Center Room 276. Approximately 65 people attended.

## **I. Approval of the minutes**

The Graduate Council considered and approved the minutes of its February 15, 2010 meeting. Dean Smith recognized Recording Secretary to the Graduate Council Emily Burns, Ph.D. student in Art History, for her service during the 2009-2010 year.

## **II. Consideration/approval of the preliminary list of Candidates for Advanced Degree**

The Graduate Council considered and approved a preliminary list of candidates for advanced degrees for May, 2010.

## **III. Dean's Report**

Dean Smith reported that it was still too early to provide numbers for Fall 2010 admission to The Graduate School. Applications were up 15% over last year.

He announced that two Ph.D. students were inducted into the National Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society at the annual Bouchet Conference on Diversity in Graduate Education held Saturday, March 27, at Yale University. The 2010 Bouchet Fellows are Kelly Diggs-Andrews, Ph.D. students in the Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences, and Christie Spence, Ph.D. student in Psychology.

Two new graduate student representatives to the Washington University Board of Trustees have been named for 2010-2011: Melissa Holtmeyer, Ph.D. student in Engineering, and Drew Gulick, MBA student.

The annual Hooding and Recognition Ceremony will be held on May 21<sup>st</sup> at the E. Desmond Lee Conference Hall at the 560 Music Center. The Ceremony begins at 11:30 or 1 hour after commencement at University. Reservations required for this are due by April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **IV. Report of Teaching and Professional Development Committee Chair**

Prof. John Klein, Art History and Archaeology, Committee Member, reported on behalf of Committee Chair Deanna Barch, Psychology. The Teaching and Professional Development Committee completed its review of how the Graduate School Teaching Requirement for Ph.D. students is reported. The Committee recommended a new Implementation Plan in which departments articulate their philosophy about teaching and their plans for TA/ Teaching Training that ensure graduate students a means of meeting these training goals. The Committee's recommendation was presented to and approved by the full Graduate Council. Departments have been notified of this new implementation plan and asked to provide responses by May 20th. These plans will be reviewed by a subset of the Teaching and Professional Development Committee, including the Graduate Dean. In addition, the Teaching and Professional

Development Committee reviewed the results of the 2009-2010 series of TA Online surveys. It was noted that a continuing concern on part of graduate students was adequate training in dealing with Academic Integrity and Discrimination issues. The Teaching Center has already been working on ways in which to enhance coverage of Academic Integrity and Discrimination topics via the yearly TA orientation and workshops offered throughout the year; Dr. Beth Fisher, associate director of the Center, offered a new workshop on Academic Integrity and Teaching this Spring. In addition, the Teaching and Professional Development Committee recommended looking into the development of a one hour workshop dealing with ethical issues in teaching (e.g. integrity violations, harassment and discrimination) for graduate students early in their training programs.

#### **V. Report of Policies and Services Committee Chair**

Prof. William McKelvy, English, reported on the Committee's charge to look at how Ph.D. student satisfactory and timely academic progress is monitored and mentored through decentralized and centralized practices. The Committee drafted a questionnaire to send to Ph.D. programs in Fall 2010. This questionnaire will be reviewed in the fall and then sent to departments. The Committee also recommended that the Graduate School Dean appoint a separate ad hoc committee of faculty and graduate students to engage the question "What is a Dissertation?" and make recommendations.

#### **VI. Report of Graduate Student Senate Co-Presidents –**

Graduate Student Senate Co-Presidents Aileen Waters, English, and Katie Muth, English reported on Graduate Student Senate events sponsored in 2009-2010. Annual report of events included: New Graduate Student Orientation and New Student BBQ; Health and Wellness Event; Winter Food Drive; Diversity Panel entitled "Women in Academia"; a series of teaching and career development workshops; off-campus security forum; Graduate and Professional Student Health Forum; 15<sup>th</sup> Annual GSS Graduate Student Research Symposium; Relay for Life; Career Panel titled "The Academy and the Economy"; and the GSS Outstanding Faculty Mentor Awards. The events suggest that the GSS met their goal for the year of dealing specifically with professional development. They announced the election of the 2010-2011 GSS Co-Presidents: Dave Gutekunst, Movement Sciences and Barbara Barrow, English. Dean Smith thanked Aileen Waters and Katie Muth for their leadership and presented them each of them with a certificate and the traditional Washington University umbrella.

#### **VII. Action on new Graduate Courses for Fall 2010**

Ann Cooper, Graduate School Registrar, offered for the consideration of the Graduate Council the list of new graduate courses for Fall 2010. A recommendation was made to add credit units to the course descriptions. The Graduate Council voted unanimously to approve the list.

#### **VIII. New Business**

Announcements:

- The Graduate School-wide Orientation for New Graduate Students will be held on August 23, 2010. Information will be available at <http://graduateschool.wustl.edu>, under the heading "New Students".
- There will also be a TA Orientation for first-time TA's, organized by The Teaching Center, on Wednesday, August 25, 2010.

- Graduate Student Workshops on Teaching With Technology will take place in May. E-mails are forthcoming.

### **IX. Presentation of the Dean's Awards for Teaching Excellence**

Dean Richard J. Smith presented the annual Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence. The Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence is awarded each Spring to recognize outstanding teaching assistants; it includes a \$1,500 cash prize and a certificate of recognition. TAs are recommended for the award by their departments, and award recipients are publicized in the Commencement booklet in the year of their graduate.

2009-2010 Recipients:

Angeles Donoso, Hispanic Languages and Literature;  
Tanya Roth, History;  
Timothy Bono, Psychology;  
Tracy Graves, German and Comparative Literature;  
Patrick Johnson, Physics;  
Maureen McKiernan, Chemistry;  
Nicholas Miller, English;  
Timothy Oakberg, Philosophy;  
Diana O'Brien, Political Science;  
Kara Ocobock, Anthropology;  
Yoojin Soh, Chinese and Comparative Literature;  
Norma Suvak, Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies;  
Anna Warbelow, Art History and Archaeology.

### **X. Adjournment**

Dean Smith adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m. and invited all to attend a reception to thank the Graduate Council Representatives for their service and to congratulate the Teaching Award Recipients.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Burns  
Recording Secretary  
August 26, 2010