

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

February 15, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.

Dean Richard J. Smith called the meeting to order on Monday, February 15 at 4:04 p.m. in The Jordan Formal Classroom, Danforth University Center Room 276. Approximately 50 people attended.

I. Approval of the minutes

The Graduate Council reviewed and approved the minutes of the November 23, 2009 meeting.

II. Dean's Report

Dean Smith reminded the Council of upcoming deadlines for departmental nominations for the Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence (March 15, 2010) and applications for the graduate student representative position to the Washington University Board of Trustees 2010-2011 (February 22, 2010). These should be forwarded to Associate Dean Elaine Berland. The Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence Award ceremony will take place at the Graduate Council meeting on April 19, 2010. He also reminded the Council that the Annual Graduate Student Research Symposium will be held February 27, 2010, and the Outstanding Faculty Mentor Awards will be held on April 14, at 4:30 PM.

Dean Smith reported on graduate school applications. He noted that there was a 16% increase in the number of students taking the GRE, which coincides with a 15% increase in the applicant pool for the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences. The increase is not spread evenly across the departments.

In response to a question regarding the National Research Council graduate program rankings, Dean Smith answered that he had heard no new release date announcement.

III. Report from the Graduate Student Senate Co-President

GSS Co-President Katie Muth, English, reported on the January 27th Off-Campus Safety & Security Forum, co-sponsored by GSS, Umang Indian Graduate Student Association, and the Graduate Professional Council. Vice-Chancellor of Administration Hank Webber, University Police Chief Don Strom, and Associate Vice-Chancellors Mary Campbell and Steve Hoffner answered student questions about improvements being made to Quadrangle apartments and off-campus safety concerns. About 60 students attended. Follow-ups to this forum included the start of Campus2Home shuttle service; more blue light phones and information sharing with non-university affiliated property owners in the North Delmar neighborhood; enhancement of student safety education and the university crime alert system. There has also been an acceleration of the process of upgrading the safety features of Quadrangle Housing apartments. The GSS has decided to reconvene its Housing Committee in an effort to maintain more transparent lines of communication about students in off-campus housing with Quadrangle management.

GSS co-sponsored a Haiti Earthquake Awareness Event with GPC, Community Service Office, and the Black Graduate Council on January 28, 2010.

Muth announced plans for upcoming Spring events. GSS is working to increase graduate student involvement in Relay for Life for March 20-21st. To date, two very active Arts & Sciences teams have raised a combined total of \$5000.

There will be a forum on Danforth Campus Student Health Services organized by GSS and the Graduate Student Health Advisory Committee meeting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, January 24th, 2010. Dr. Alan Glass, Director of Danforth Campus Student Health Services, and representatives from SHS will offer information on current health services and field questions from graduate and professional students.

The 15th Annual Graduate Student Research Symposium, sponsored by GSS in partnership with SAC, GPC and AGES, will take place this year on Saturday, February 27, 2010 in Lab Sciences Building. GSS is calling for graduate student nominations for the 11th Annual Outstanding Faculty Mentor Awards. All graduate students and alumni of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences are invited to nominate faculty candidates for this recognition.

The GSS Career Advisory Committee continues to work with Dr. Arlene Taich of the Career Center. The support of senators last semester significantly raised enrollment in these career workshops. The GSS is planning a panel on the academic job market and the current economic situation later this spring.

Dean Smith added comments about the Off-Campus Safety Forum. He noted the emotional tenor of the room, with students who themselves had been burglarized or knew students who had been crime victims. The discussion brought forth specific plans for improvement; graduate students asked good questions, and celebrated the constructive quality of the event.

IV. Report of Teaching and Professional Development Committee Chair

Committee Chair Prof. Deanna Barch, Psychology, reported that the Committee is following up on the Council's approval of a new implementation plan for the Graduate School Teaching Requirement for Ph.D. students. The Committee will send a request for the department plan for TA/Teaching Training to Directors of Graduate Studies later this spring.

V. Report of Policies and Services Committee Chair

Committee Chair Prof. William McKelvy, English, reminded the Council of the two charges given to the Committee. Regarding its consideration of which body should engage the question "what is a dissertation?" and study the current guidelines of dissertations, the Committee recommended that Dean Smith convene a separate committee of faculty from a wide range of departments.

Secondly, regarding its charge to study procedures for mentoring and monitoring Ph.D. students' timely progress to degree, the Committee is working on a questionnaire to ask departments about current practices and procedures.

VI. Action to consider and approve proposal for new Ph.D. in Chinese Language and Literature

Prof. Robert Hegel, Asian and Near Eastern Languages and Literatures, presented a proposal for a new Ph.D. program in Chinese Language and Literature (proposal). Dean Smith called for a motion to approve the proposal. The Graduate Council voted unanimously to approve the proposal as submitted and to be effective immediately.

VII. Action to consider and approve proposal for new Ph.D. in Japanese Language and Literature

Prof. Marvin Marcus, Asian and Near Eastern Languages and Literatures, presented a proposal for new Ph.D. program in Japanese Language and Literature program (proposal). Dean Smith called for a motion to approve proposal. The Graduate Council voted unanimously to approve the proposal as submitted and to be effective immediately.

VIII. New Business

No new business was brought to the Graduate Council.

IX. Adjournment

Dean Smith adjourned the meeting at 4:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Graduate School of Arts & Sciences