

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

November 23, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

Dean Richard J. Smith called the meeting to order on Monday, November 23 at 4:00 p.m. in The Jordan Formal Classroom, Danforth University Center Room 276. Approximately 49 people attended.

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

The Graduate Council reviewed and approved the minutes of the October 5, 2009 meeting.

## **II. Consideration of Advanced Degree Candidates**

The Graduate Council reviewed and approved the preliminary list of candidates for advanced degrees for December 2009.

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

Dean Richard Smith reported on the 5<sup>th</sup> International Graduate Student Scholarship Conference in Beijing, China. This is an annual graduate education and recruiting initiative, organized by the Washington University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and the China Scholarship Council. Peer institution participants included Harvard, Yale, and Duke universities.

Dean Smith reported that the National Research Council (NRC) ranking of graduate programs has not yet been released. A new methodology and the large amount of data collected in Fall 2006 for the current NRC study has contributed to the long delay in releasing the results. The new methodology was designed to address the reputation bias in its 1995 report; each graduate program will be evaluated based on the metrics used by that discipline. Dean Smith indicated that, given the method and timing of data collection, a department may get a ranking number that may not reflect current faculty or program quality.

Dean Smith made a clarification about the new deadline for graduate students to submit their Title, Scope, and Procedure (TSP) form to the Graduate School prior to beginning their 5<sup>th</sup> year. He noted that the Graduate School is requiring students only to file the TSP form, not to defend their dissertation proposal or prospectus. He suggested that departments may need to rethink what requirements they attach to the TSP form.

## **IV. Report from the Graduate Student Senate Co-President**

Aileen Waters, English, GSS Co-president, updated the Council on recent GSS events. There have been two events sponsored by its Diversity Committee: A panel discussion on International Professors and a panel discussion on Women in Academia. Both were successful and well-attended. They also held the Fall Health and Wellness Event, and have begun the GSS co-sponsored canned food drive in The Liberman Graduate Center.

Upcoming events are the GSS Graduate Research Symposium, which is scheduled for February 27<sup>th</sup>, and the GSS Outstanding Faculty Mentor Awards Ceremony, scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup>.

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

Committee Chair Deanna Barch, Psychology, reported on two items from the Teaching and Professional Development Committee. She presented highlights from the Executive Summary Report of 2008-2009 Online TA Surveys (handout). One important area identified for improvement is the continued perception of respondents that they are not prepared sufficiently as TAs to deal with academic integrity or discrimination issues. Dr. Beth Fisher, Associate Director of The Teaching Center, is developing additional workshops to deal with those issues, to begin next spring.

Professor Barch then reviewed the Committee's proposal for an implementation change to the Graduate School-wide Teaching Requirement for Ph.D. Students (proposal mailed with agenda). She noted that the Committee reaffirmed support for the basic policy principle that all Ph.D. students should receive teaching training and teaching opportunities that fulfill the core requirements of basic and advanced experiences (originally approved by the Graduate Council in April 2004). However, the Committee found the current implementation plan to be inflexible and not to adequately allow for differences among disciplines: the Committee recommended that the 14- and 4-hour components be eliminated. The Committee proposed a revised implementation plan in which each graduate department will develop and update its plan to provide pedagogical training and TA/teaching opportunities that will ensure that Ph.D. students in its program meet discipline teaching objectives and fulfill the Graduate School-wide Teaching Requirement. The Graduate Council approved the proposal for Implementation Change as presented.

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

Committee Chair William McKelvy, English, reported on the Policies and Services Committee. The Committee met in November to consider its charge of looking at practices of monitoring and mentoring satisfactory and timely academic progress of Ph.D. students. The Committee discussed current practices at other institutions; the Committee will be contacting departments for information on how individual departments monitor Ph.D. academic progress.

#### **VII. Action on New Courses**

Ann Cooper, Registrar, presented the list of new courses for Spring 2010 approved and submitted by departments. The Graduate Council voted unanimously to accept the report.

**VIII. Action to consider and approve proposal for new Pedagogy Concentration in Master of Music degree program**

Dean Smith asked Council members to consider the proposal for a new Pedagogy Concentration in Master of Music degree program. Professor Dolores Pesce, Chair, Music, was present to answer questions. It was noted that the concentration would not fulfill the teaching requirements for graduate students who want to teach in public schools. The Graduate Council voted unanimously to approve the proposal.

**IX. Action to consider and approve proposal for implementation change to the Graduate School-wide Teaching Requirement for Ph.D. students**

Proposal was approved as presented; see Report of the Teaching and Professional Development Committee Chair, section V.

**X. New Business**

Liberman Senior Fellow Tanya Roth, History, announced two January workshops she and Bryn Lutes, Chemistry, will be conducting. The first workshop, hosted with the Career Center, "Using Technology for the Job Search," will focus on helping graduate students use the internet for academic job searches. The second workshop, hosted with The Teaching Center, "Exploring Emerging Technology for Academic Application," will focus on assisting faculty and graduate students to use new technologies in the classroom.

**X. Adjournment**

Dean Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Berland, Ph.D.  
Associate Dean  
Graduate School of Arts & Sciences  
2-1-10