

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

October 4, 2010 at 4 p.m.

Graduate Council Chair Richard J. Smith, Dean of the The Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, called the meeting to order at 4 p.m. in the Jordan Formal Classroom, Danforth University Center Room 276. Approximately 75 graduate student and faculty members attended.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Dean Smith presented an overview of the structure and purpose of the Graduate Council, including charges to the standing Committees and responsibilities of Graduate Council Representatives.

As constituted in December 1964 by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and reorganized in 1990, the Graduate Council acts as the main advisory forum on matters pertaining to the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and serves as the legislative branch of the Graduate School. The Council is chaired by the Dean of the Graduate School.

Council Membership: In late spring each degree-granting program identifies one faculty representative (the graduate studies director) and one graduate student representative for service on the Council for the following academic year.

The Graduate Council meets four times per year. Next meetings are: December 6, 2010 at 4 p.m.; February 7, 2011 at 4 p.m.; and April 25, 2011 at 4 p.m. Beginning next year, meeting days/times will vary to avoid overlap with departmental colloquia.

There are currently three standing committees: Executive Committee (which met on September 15, 2010 and elected Professor Deanna Barch, Psychology, as Chair); Teaching and Professional Development Committee (chaired by Professor Deanna Barch); and Policies and Services Committee (chaired by Professor William Clark, Speech and Hearing). Committees generally meet once or twice per semester as needed.

Dean Smith stressed the importance of each representative's function in keeping her/his department informed about the issues discussed in the Graduate Council meetings, and communicating department concerns to the Dean Berland as possible future agenda items. Dean Smith insisted on the importance of communication across the university and invited the assistance of the representatives.

II. Consideration/approval of the Minutes

The Graduate Council reviewed and approved the minutes of its April 19, 2010 meeting as presented.

III. Consideration/approval of the list of the candidates for advanced degrees

The Graduate Council reviewed and approved the list of candidates for advanced degrees for August 2010.

IV. Dean's Report

Dean Smith reported that there were four incidents of academic integrity charged against graduate students brought to the Graduate School for review and sanction in 2009-2010.

Dean Smith next reported The Career Center is offering a new career resource for graduate students in the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences: Interfolio, which is a dossier service widely used across peer institutions for the collection, management, and showcase of academic and professional credentials for applications to positions in higher education (<http://www.interfolio.com/>).

The National Research Council Report evaluating doctoral programs was released on Tuesday, September 28, 2010. The database is available online at www.nap.edu/rdp which contains ranges for each Ph.D. program.

Dean Smith presented the charge for the Policies and Services Committee for 2010-2011. The Committee was asked to continue its look at how Ph.D. students' timely, satisfactory academic progress is monitored and mentored through decentralized and centralized practices. In addition, Dean Smith stressed the importance of each department having a clear policy regarding the "up and out" events, and asked Graduate Council faculty Representatives to forward him department policies including specific events with time-lines.

Dean Smith presented the charge to the Teaching and Professional Development Committee, which will continue oversight of the online TA survey, and the review of each department's Implementation Plan for the Graduate School-wide Teaching Requirements for Ph.D. students. The Committee will also receive reports from Dr. Arlene Taich, The Career Center, and Dr. Beth Fisher, The Teaching Center, regarding student career advising and professional development.

Next, Dean Smith asked departments to clarify the information disseminated to Ph.D. students regarding the years of stipend support provided to incoming students based on their as status (B.A. or relevant M.A).

Dean Smith announced an upcoming proposal on dissertation committee composition that will be voted upon at the December 6th meeting of the Graduate Council. The proposed guidelines for membership states: The committee of the faculty before which the student is examined normally consists of at least six members. Five of the six must be tenured or tenure-track Washington University faculty; one of these five may be a member of the Emeritus faculty. The committee of six should include at least four faculty from the student's degree program and at least two from outside the program, one of whom should be from another Ph.D. granting program at Washington University. The other outside member may be from another university or from industry. The inclusion of other individuals who do not meet these guidelines normally should be accomplished by adding a seventh member, rather than by requesting an exception to the core committee. (An

outside member who does not have a doctorate as well as an active research program should be considered only as a seventh member.)

Additionally, Dean Smith announced another proposal for revision of requirements for the A.M. degree. The proposal terminology states that 30 credits are the minimal requirement for a master's degree, or 36 credits if the master's degree is in a program of study in which Washington University awards a Ph.D. with an identical disciplinary title. The proposal for revision of requirements for the A.M. degree will be voted upon at the December 6, 2010 meeting.

V. Report of Graduate Student Senate Co-President

GSS Co-President Barbara Barrow, English, presented the report of the Graduate Student Senate. She gave a brief introduction and stated that the goals of the organization are to serve as liaisons between graduate students and Graduate School administration, faculty and staff and to provide programming events to enhance graduate student life.

Recent GSS events include the New Graduate Student Orientation, co-sponsored with the Graduate School and held on August 23, 2010, for 300 new graduate students, and the New Graduate Student Barbeque on August 29, 2010, with about 200 students in attendance. Additionally, on September 8, 2010, the GSS hosted a Student Health Insurance Information Session, with a representative from the Habif Health and Wellness Center.

Upcoming events for GSS include: a Diversity Symposium on "cultural diversity in academia" followed by a discussion and reception (to be held in October, date TBA) and a Diversity Panel on November 18, 2010, and a Holiday Canned Food Drive Kickoff in November (date TBA). Upcoming events for the Spring semester include the annual Graduate Student Research Symposium on February 26, 2011, which showcases research for an interdisciplinary audience; Relay for Life on March 5 and 6, 2011; the Annual Spring Diversity Panel and Academic Jobs Panel in March; and the Outstanding Faculty Mentor Awards, to be held on Wednesday April 13, 2011. She also noted GSS involvement in promoting two professional development workshop series this fall, with The Teaching Center and The Career Center.

Dean Smith praised the service and leadership of GSS in enhancing graduate students' experience, as well as promoting resources on career opportunities.

VI. Action to consider and approve proposal for new Ph.D. in Rehabilitation and Participation Science

Professor Carolyn Baum, Director, Program in Occupational Therapy, and Professor Jack R. Engsborg, Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy, Neurosurgery, and Orthopedics, presented a proposal to create a new Ph.D. in Rehabilitation and Participation Science. Professor Baum noted that the proposal has already been reviewed and approved by The School of Medicine.

The Graduate Council voted unanimously to approve the proposal as presented.

VII. Action to consider and approve proposal for new Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies

Professor Mabel Moraña, William H. Gass Professor in Arts & Sciences and Director, Latin American Studies Track in International and Area Studies Program, presented a proposal for a new Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies.

The Graduate Council voted unanimously to approve the proposal as presented.

VIII. Action to consider and approve new graduate courses

Ann Cooper, Graduate School Registrar, offered for the consideration of the Graduate Council the list of new graduate courses for the Fall 2010 semester.

The Graduate Council voted unanimously to approve the list.

IX. Notice of Proposed Changes to Dissertation Committee Membership and Procedures (handout) – Dean Richard J. Smith

Dean Smith asked for questions on the proposed changes to dissertation committee membership and procedures (see Dean's Report). Discussion regarding qualifications of outside committee members and member selection criteria followed, facilitated by Dean Smith and Associate Dean Nancy Pope.

X. Notice of Proposed Change in A.M. Requirements (handout) – Dean Richard J. Smith

Regarding changes in Master's requirements, members inquired about policy changes. Dean Smith reiterated that previous policies regarding comprehensive exams were not being changed; rather, the change in policy affects the number of credits required for a Master's degree in a field where Ph.D. degree is offered.

XII. Adjournment

Dean Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alison Heller, Anthropology
Recording Secretary to the Graduate Council 2010-2011