Provisional Graduate Education Council

Meeting of
Tuesday, October 5
9:30 – 11:30 a.m., 433 Johnston Hall
Minutes

Present: Anja Bielinsky, Michael Bowser, Jarrod Call, Bianet Castellanos, Juliette Cherbuliez, Belinda Cheung, Shawn Curley, Vicki Field, Vicki Hansen (via Skype), Kristin Kari Janke, Kimi Johnson, Jeff Kahn, Mike Kilgore, Greg Lindsey, Christopher Phelan, Stephen Polasky, Henning Schroeder, Char Voight (staff), Pamela Weisenhorn

1. Defining roles and responsibilities:
   a. Council members clarified their understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the GEC in relationship to other governing bodies (e.g., FCC).
   b. The Council is intended to serve as an advisory and governing body with all members (including student members) having voting rights.
   c. A primary responsibility of the provisional GEC is to create a set of rules for the election of the permanent GEC.

2. Report from Professor Nita Krevans, Chair, Graduate School Policy Review Committee (GEPRC)
   a. Nita Krevans presented a draft of the proposed policy on eligibility requirements for graduate student committee service and sought council members’ input.
   b. With GEC approval, the draft policy will be presented to SCEP on October 6 with revisions based on feedback from the GEC, and to the FCC, Policy Advisory Committee (PAC), and President’s Policy Committee (PPC) before the end of December.
   c. GEC members provided feedback on the draft policy and on the other policy issues that might be “fast-tracked” by the GEPRC.
   d. The GEC voted in favor of Professor Krevans presenting the draft policy to SCEP at their October 6 meeting.
   e. Professor Krevans distributed a description of the six subcommittees of the Graduate Education Policy Review Committee along with contact information for the subcommittee chairs.

3. November 2 Graduate and Professional Education Assembly
   a. Henning Schroeder gave GEC members an overview of the inaugural Graduate and Professional Education Assembly on November 2.
   b. William Russel, Princeton University Graduate School dean and chair of the national Commission on the Future of Graduate Education in the United States, will deliver the keynote address focusing on crucial issues in graduate and professional education identified in the commission’s recently published report, *The Path Forward*.

4. Fellowship issues:
   a. 2011-12 Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship. Council members discussed the selection criteria for the DDF with particular emphasis on:
      i. whether the materials submitted for the fellowship accurately reflect the students’ accomplishments (specifically, the research proposal);
recommendation to require a scholarly research summary, rather than a research proposal, and a statement on the impact of the scholarship

ii. the benefits and limitations of an interdisciplinary, University-wide review committee

iii. the timing of the fellowship award in what is typically the last year; is the intent to reward the best late-stage students/doctoral candidates for their scholarly and research accomplishments or to provide an incentive to the most promising students earlier in their careers?

b. 2011-12 Howard Hughes Medical Institute Research Fellowships for International Students: Council members reviewed the list of potential faculty reviewers and will send Vicki Field additional suggestions and then send their top 12 ranked faculty reviewers from the revised list.

c. 2011-12 Interdisciplinary Doctoral Fellowship (IDF). Henning Schroeder summarized the changes in the IDF process this year:

i. We have shifted from a DGS/departmental nomination to a student application process (including approval and support by their mentors/advisers)

ii. The potential host center sites have expanded beyond the 5 University-wide interdisciplinary centers to any center selected by the student applicant that meets the criteria outlined in the fellowship call.

iii. Fellowship review will now be done by a faculty committee, rather than by the directors of the interdisciplinary centers and institutes

5. Determination of membership of permanent GEC
   a. Membership on the GEC is open to the coordinate campuses (particularly Duluth and Rochester) and not restricted to the Twin Cities.
   b. A process should be ensured that addresses the issue of coordinate campus involvement and assures representation in voting.
   c. It may be helpful to look at other institutions for models regarding how elections to such governing bodies are managed (e.g., system-wide? Nominations from collegiate units?).

6. Schedule of next meetings:
   - Wednesday, November 3, 2:30-4:30, 433 Johnston Hall
   - Friday, December 10, 9-11, 433 Johnston Hall