Graduate Education Council
Meeting of
Wednesday, May 22, 2013
1:00 – 3:00 p.m., 433 Johnston Hall
Meeting Minutes


(Shawn Curley chaired the meeting on behalf of Henning Schroeder.)

For information
1. Announcements
- Belinda Cheng announced that beginning September 1, 2013, Dean Henning Schroeder will take a one-year position as the Council of Graduate Schools/National Science Foundation Dean in Residence for 2013-2014. Provost Karen Hanson has named Professor Sally Gregory Kohlstedt as Acting Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean.
- Graduate School 2.0: A committee to review graduate education is now being formed jointly by the Faculty Consultative Committee and the Office of the Provost. Four subcommittees will examine a variety of issues. It is anticipated that the committee will gather data this summer to support discussions during fall semester, with final recommendations expected by this December.

2. Update on the graduate education transition
-Frank Blalark, Academic Support Resources, described the automation of waitlists, which are used after courses reach enrollment capacity. The new system will begin in 2014, after ASR staff gathers more feedback from faculty and departments. GEC members commented favorably on the automation.
-Beginning in June, degree audits will be available in students’ records. Students will be able to input classes they will take to satisfy requirements. They can also sign forms online and view accomplished milestones.

For discussion and action:
1. Approval of the notes and minutes from the April 23, 2013 meeting.
   The April 23rd meeting notes and minutes were distributed at the May 22 meeting. A vote to approve them will be taken e-mail.

2. Approval of revised minutes from the January 29, 2013 meeting
ACTION: GEC members unanimously approved the revised minutes from the January 29th meeting.

3. Proposal for a new Ph.D. degree program in Public Affairs
   Richard Brundage led discussion of the proposal for a Ph.D. in Public Affairs. He, Fran Vavrus, and Cece Martin comprised the GEC subcommittee that reviewed the proposal, which also has been reviewed by staff of the Provost’s Office and the Graduate School. The departments of Economics and Political Science were consulted, and the proposal has been modified to meet their recommendations. The Humphrey School has been discussing the need for a Ph.D. program since the mid-1980s. The proposal is strongly supported by HHH Dean Eric Schwartz and the HHH faculty.
Brundage outlined the proposal’s detailed plans for funding, faculty hiring, admission requirements, the academic plan and sub-plan structure, and he also noted the letters of support that accompanied the proposal. Administrative review bodies at the University look at compliance with University-wide policies and comments by the Provost’s staff. All aspects of the proposal appear to be in compliance. Brundage reported that the subcommittee recommends GEC approval.

**ACTION:** A motion was made to approve the creation of a new Ph.D. program in Public Affairs. The GEC voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

4. Proposal to: 1) rename the existing Educational Policy and Administration (EDPA) Ph.D. program to align with the departmental name, Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development (OLPD); 2) within the renamed Ph.D. program, rename the existing "Educational Administration" subplan as "Education Policy and Leadership”; and 3) restructure the existing Work and Human Resource Education (WHRE) Ph.D. program as a subplan named “Human Resource Development” (HRD) within the OLPD Ph.D.

Shawn Curley reported that this proposal from the College of Education and Human Development had just been submitted for GEC consideration. The proposal has not been circulated or reviewed by a GEC subcommittee. The college seeks to include the proposal on the docket for the May Board of Regents meeting and requests a fall 2013 start date.

Frances Vavrus, a member of the proposing department, briefly described the proposal and explained that it follows a merger of two departments two years ago that resulted in a single department called Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development. The Carlson School of Management does not object to the proposed subplan title, “Human Resource Development.”

GEC members, Emily Ronning (Provost’s Office), and Karen Starry (Graduate School) discussed an additional aspect of the proposal: the reduction, by fall 2013, of the maximum number of course credits required for degree completion. It was the decision of the group that this issue could be negotiated by the staffs of the Graduate School and the Provost’s Office.

Before voting on this proposal, GEC clarified that their role is expressly to advise Dean Schroeder. They may endorse the proposal, but the final decision is made by the Dean.

**ACTION:** A motion was made to:

1) rename the existing Educational Policy and Administration (EDPA) Ph.D. program to align with the departmental name, Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development (OLPD);
2) within the renamed Ph.D. program, rename the existing "Educational Administration" subplan as "Education Policy and Leadership”; and
3) restructure the existing Work and Human Resource Education (WHRE) Ph.D. program as a subplan named “Human Resource Development” (HRD) within the OLPD Ph.D.

Addendum: Recognizing that the proposal contains a related issue regarding maximum number of course credits, the GEC is leaves the solution to this issue in the hands of the Graduate School and the Provost’s Office.

The GEC unanimously approved the motion.
**For information and discussion**

1. **Update on Graduate Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment initiative (GSLO)**

  Claudia Neuhauser reported that she had met with the Faculty Consultative Committee, the University Senate, the Senate Committee on Educational Policy, and other groups to discuss the “Initial Ideas for a Pilot Program to Develop Graduate Student Learning Outcomes.” Comments from these groups have been incorporated in a new draft of the document. Over the summer, the GSLO committee will work with pilot graduate programs, each of which will begin in fall semester to define its own student learning outcomes. The goal of the initiative is transparency for students, who upon entering a graduate program, will know what they can expect to experience. Neuhauser will return to the GEC with further updates.

2. **Principles for academic program review**

  Provost Hanson is seeking input from the GEC and the UofM community on how and where academic program review will be addressed at this institution. Belinda Cheung reported on the program review principles presented by Henning Schroeder and Robert McMaster (Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education) to the Board of Regents at their May 9 meeting. Provost Hanson does not plan to return to the pre-2010 model, in which the Graduate School coordinated reviews, although the Graduate School may have a role. A committee is being formed to develop a loose review framework.

  Most GEC members agreed with the new approach. They recommended that reviewers articulate the value of the process and how the findings will be used.

3. **Procedure for the review of requests for Graduate School Bridging Funds**

  Belinda Cheung reported that there have been 8 requests for Bridging Funds. Clarifications have been incorporated regarding coverage for NSF Fellows. Training grantees are ineligible for bridging funds. Now that the number of NSF fellows is known, the remaining balance for other fellowships is estimated at $250,000. Cheung asked GEC members to volunteer as faculty reviewers; Ann Masten, Kathleen Conklin, and Victor Barocas volunteered. She also asked GEC members to consider whether students should serve on committees reviewing requests. The was negative: applicants cannot remain anonymous, and it is inappropriate for other students to have access to their peers’ private information.

4. **Debrief of spring 2013 GEC election**

  Shawn Curley reported that a much lower percentage of faculty voted in the GEC election this year. He suggested that voter comments would be reduced by 1) publicizing the committee members who will continue to serve and 2) publicizing the full list of nominees. Joe Konstan commented that the GEC election process can be changed if more competition is desired.

5. **Results of 2013 DDF and IDF competitions**

  Alison Skoberg, Graduate Fellowship Office, reported that 244 Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship nominations were submitted by 63 programs and 151 awards were made (62% award rate). There were 27 faculty members and 4 co-chairs on the review committee, which was divided into 9 subcommittees organized by discipline. Faculty members reviewed nominations that were closer to their own discipline, but did not review nominations submitted by their own program. The funding pool was larger this year, so more fellowships (each worth $41,000) were awarded. Not all the available funding was used, because some nominees did not meet selection criteria.

  The Graduate Fellowship Office received 64 Interdisciplinary Doctoral Fellowship applications and 20 awards were made (31% award rate). There were 12 faculty members and one chair on the review committee. Several GEC members noted the requirement for a host research center or institute for ID fellows. Vicki Field explained that the intent is to give ID fellows a perspective other than that of their
departments and an opportunity to network with other faculty. Follow-up surveys of past ID fellows found that this approach provided both the desired perspective and also unique professional development opportunities.

Adjourn.