Provisional Graduate Education Council
Meeting of
Monday, September 26, 2011
1:00 – 3:00 p.m., 433 Johnston Hall
Minutes

Present: Charlie Billington, Michael Bowser, Juliette Cherbuliez, Belinda Cheung (staff), Shawn Curley, Vicki Field (staff), Caroline Hayes, Kimi Johnson, Mike Kilgore, Greg Lindsey, Kevin Murphy, Chris Phelan, Rebecca Ropers-Huilman, Tim Salo, Henning Schroeder, Char Voight (staff).

For action:
1. The notes and minutes from the August 3, 2011 provisional GEC meeting were approved.

For information:
1. Updates: (Henning Schroeder) The 2011-12 Doctoral Dissertation Fellows Seminars schedule was distributed. Students’ advisors will also be invited and informed with a separate email when their student is presenting. Faculty are encouraged to attend to provide valuable feedback to the presenters.

2. Update on the proposal for a co-directed Ph.D. degree program with the University of Liege/Belgium (Mike Bowser). The subcommittee met with the proposers to further discuss recommended revisions/clarification to the proposal. They are waiting for the authors to respond in writing to the feedback.

For information and discussion:
1. Graduate education policies (Nita Krevans) (doctoral and master’s degree progress draft policies, Request for Exception to Maximum Credit Requirements form): Krevans reported that the Policy Review Committee is still reviewing and revising the degree progress policies. She asked people to review the request for exceptions to the maximum credit requirements form and to provide her with any input. Examples of approved forms will be posted on the transition web site for others to see once they complete the process. Krevans also reported on several issues related to the degree progress policies:
   a. Implementation: Software and other infrastructure must support online submission and tracking of such things as the degree plan form. The Policy Review Committee is working with ASR and RAC to develop appropriate templates, processes and procedures.
   b. Time to degree: We have diverse student populations on campus. How do we accommodate diverse students in special circumstances and still have a reasonable time to degree?
   c. Embargo and submission of digital dissertations to the University: Krevans shared that the committee is still working on specific language to address these issues and asked for GEC input.

   GEC members provided Krevans with additional feedback, which she will share with the other members of the Policy Review Committee as they continue work on the draft policies.

2. Report from the GEC nominating committee (Mike Bowser for Vicki Hansen):
a. Mike Kilgore and Juliette Cherbuliez have recused themselves due to a conflict of interest (their names are among the nominees being considered). We have extended an invitation to another GEC member and are waiting for response. We are still on schedule for the slate generation and election.

3. Description of potential balloting system for fall 2011 GEC election (Lee Snyder and Shelly Wymer, Office of Measurement Services): Snyder and Wymer gave an overview of the U-Ballot and the accompanying services they can provide. They have found that when using this system, people respond faster, more people vote, and results are returned quickly. It also protects voter confidentiality and anonymity because Health Survey Research Center only sees the ballots.

4. Planning for Phase II of the Quality Metrics Allocation Plan (Henning Schroeder): Phase I of the Plan consisted of sending the basic measures to all the collegiate deans. Phase II includes expanding the metrics that could be used for Phase II funding allocations (FY13 and beyond), listed in a handout taken from the Enrollment Management Committee’s report to the Provost. The list does not represent final decisions about metrics, but many possibilities of measures that could be used. GEC members discussed the relative merits of the measures listed, and provided feedback on the process going forward. How should metrics be used for FY13 funding allocations? Which metrics? Which metrics are disciplinary based or disciplinary specific? How do we measure student learning while in a program? How do we include metrics tied to non-academic placement?

The chair of the Enrollment Management Graduate Education Subcommittee will present the report to the Regents in October for information, not for a vote or action. The Provost would like to have Phase II in place for next year. Schroeder has emphasized to the various stakeholder groups that this is not intended to provide a narrow, rigid approach to funding allocation decisions, or to program evaluation generally. These measures will continue to be refined, revised and expanded through consultation.

5. Strategies for improving completion rates and time to degree through the Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship Program (Henning Schroeder): This agenda item was tabled until the next meeting due to lack of time for discussion.

For discussion and/or action:

1. Second draft of bylaws for a permanent GEC (Henning Schroeder): Vicki Field reminded people that the GEC will need to approve both the by-laws and the charge before we can issue a ballot for the election. GEC members were asked to review both items and to come prepared to discuss them at the next meeting.

2. GEC charge (Henning Schroeder): This agenda item was tabled until the next meeting due to lack of time for discussion.