

MINUTES
The Graduate Council
April 18, 2007
Johnson Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Marian Friestad (ex officio), Mark Johnson, Lori Kruckenberg, Huaxin Lin, Richard Linton (ex officio), Wayne Mikkelson, Ron Mitchell, Mark Watson (ex officio), Corbett Upton

Members Absent: Yvonne Braun, David Chard, Li-Shan Chou, Michael Hames-Garcia, Ellen Herman, Brook Muller, Harry Price, John Russial

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Kassy Fisher, Stephanie McLaughlin, Debra Otley

Ron Mitchell (vice chair) called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m. As there was no March meeting, the minutes from February 21, 2007 were reviewed, but could not be officially approved as only 6 members were present at the time.

Announcements

- Kassy Fisher updated the Council of the recipients of the UO Doctoral Research Fellowship and the Gary Smith Summer Grant Awards. There was a brief discussion of ways to manage the large number of applications for the Smith Awards, including limiting the number of applicants from a single department to two.

- Dean Friestad confirmed that the GSFLT test used at the testing center as a measure of second language proficiency is being replaced by the CLEP test, beginning in fall term. Both will be offered this summer. One notable difference between the tests is that the GSFLT costs \$7.50 while the CLEP costs \$80.

Old Business

- *Revised Proposal for the Initiation of a New Instructional Program Leading to a Professional Master's Degree in Strategic Communications submitted by the School of Journalism and Communication (SOJC)*

Dean Friestad asked for additional concerns or comments and noted that the revised document seemed to address all of the concerns raised previously by the Graduate Council. She also noted that SOJC had accepted the Library's recommendation for additional funds. Dean Friestad also confirmed that a vote in favor of the proposal results in a recommendation to the Provost to approve the proposal and take it to the OUS Provosts' Council and then to the State Board of Higher Education.

There was no further discussion and the 5 voting members present voted in favor of the proposal. David Chard's proxy vote in favor was also presented to the Chair. Mark Johnson arrived and the discussion was reopened. Dr. Johnson had concerns about staffing and the fact that the proposal depends on the program being allowed to keep all of its tuition revenue. Dean Friestad responded that there are plans for three resident faculty members to be secured, and that there are other programs that have similar designs with tuition set at a higher rate and the revenue staying within the program. Dr. Johnson said he thought the proposal showed good entrepreneurship but that he still had concerns about the funding model. Richard Linton suggested that the budget model concerns be noted if the committee approves the proposal and forwards it to the Provost. Dean Friestad also noted that in recent years, the Conflict and Dispute Resolution program proposal, which had a non-traditional budget model, had been passed by the Graduate Council.

Dr. Johnson also had a question about the number of contact hours expected because the proposal was unclear as to whether the 4-credit courses would meet only once a week or twice. Dean Friestad said she was certain that both the internal (SOJC) accreditation committee and the Curriculum Committee will monitor this closely in their review.

Dr. Johnson's vote to pass the proposal was added, making a total of 7 votes in favor of the proposal. Dean Friestad will circulate a draft of concerns to be included in the Council's recommendation to the Provost. NOTE: The Council members unable to attend the meeting will be polled by email for their votes.

- *Changing the Minimum TOEFL Score for UO Graduate Admission and Establishing a Minimum IELTS Score for UO Graduate Admission*

Dean Friestad and Dr. Mitchell opened the discussion with a reminder that the Council had previously voted to accept the IELTS and that the remaining questions were: Where to set the minimum IELTS score and whether to raise the TOEFL score to 550 or 575. Dr. Friestad stated that all five departments with minimum scores under 550 were polled previously and that all had endorsed raising the minimum to either 550 or 575. The only concern had come from Art and pertained to the impact a higher minimum could have on relations with China.

The issue was discussed and because 14 departments with minimums of 550 were not polled, it was decided that the Graduate School will follow up with these departments to see how a minimum of 575 or 600 would affect them. Dr. Linton added that setting the minimum too aggressively (e.g., at 600) could negatively impact our attempts to balance quality vs. access and our efforts at recruiting international students. The Graduate School will also rerun the numbers to see how many of our students would have been affected if our minimum had been 575.

Dean's Updates

- Dean Linton reminded those who have participated in the CAS Dean search to provide feedback to the Provost as soon as possible. Dr. Johnson added that there is pressure to make a decision soon as one of the candidates has received other offers.
- Dean Linton also discussed the NRC study, noting that for the programmatic survey, we have had 100% response and that our faculty response is at 89%. Students are also selectively being surveyed and our faculty respondents are also in the process of rating other programs in their field.
- Regarding the accreditation process, Dean Linton told the Council that UO's customized response proved to be more challenging to the accreditation committee, but they commended UO for making a document that is more internally valuable. He shared some of the high level concerns that have been put forward by the accreditation committee. These included faculty workload and the stagnation of tenure track positions, a systematic assessment of student learning outcomes (largely undergraduate), funding for lab/research space, and deferred maintenance issues. The report, once final, will be widely disseminated.
- Dean Linton shared that, according to CGS, international graduate enrollment is up 8% nationally and 1% for the UO. He noted that Dean Friestad and he are working on a survey of deans regarding graduate enrollment growth. The Graduate Council will eventually participate in this process.

- Deans Linton and Friestad have also submitted diversity plans research units, research centers and institutes, and the Graduate School. These are being reviewed now. No feedback has been received yet.
- Dean Friestad shared that 27 Fighting Fund Fellowships have been offered. This represents offers of over \$400,000. 12 have been accepted (amounting to about \$200,000 in support), 5 have declined admission, and 10 are still pending. When asked about the future of these funds, Dean Friestad shared that the current fund, called “sports lottery,” has been discontinued and replaced by 1% of the lottery monies. As a result, if no other changes occur the funds available could double in two years, but we are faced with a gap year in which minimal funds will be available. The Provost has committed to supporting this program during the gap year.

The Council adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Price, Secretary