

MINUTES

The Graduate Council

February 20, 2008

Rowe Conference Room, Knight Library

Members Present: Christian Cherry, Marian Friestad (ex officio), Michael Haines-Garcia, Rich Linton (ex officio), Benedict McWhirter, Brook Muller, Harry Price, John Russial, Corbett Upton, Mark Watson,

Members Absent: Val Burris, Li-Shan Chou, Mark Johnson, Wayne Mikkelson, Ron Mitchell, Yuan Xu

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Kassy Fisher, Deb Otley, Marcia Walker

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m. The minutes from January 16, 2008 were approved as distributed.

Announcements

Dean Friestad reported that the Search Committee for the position of Associate Dean of the Graduate School held its first meeting. Approximately 40 candidates have applied. The next Search Committee meeting is scheduled for the end of this month.

Dean Linton announced that Scott Coltrane, the candidate of choice for the CAS Dean position, recently made his second visit to campus. He is from UC—Riverside.

Professor McWhirter reported that there is a candidate pool for the COE Dean position, and the search is proceeding without delay.

Old Business

1. Proposal for the Initiation of a New Instructional Program Leading to the Ecological Design Certificate in Architecture & Allied Arts

Christine Theodoropoulos, Department Head in Architecture, joined the Graduate Council to discuss the Ecological Design Certificate Proposal. Brook Muller reported that initially the students enrolled will come from the School of Architecture, but in the future, the hope is to attract students from other departments creating collaborative opportunities.

Professor Muller said that he had spoken with architectural leaders in the community. They believe that this is a promising program, as they prefer to hire creative problem solvers and this new program of study addresses that need.

Professor McWhirter asked about cultural sustainability. Professor Muller replied that the Program's sustainability goes to creating an environment in which we would all like to live. Professor Theodoropoulos added that she sees the Program as preserving culture as well.

Dean Friestad inquired as to how students would apply to get into the program. Professor Muller responded that the School of Architecture would advertise it, the student would set up a plan with the School of Architecture, and that plan would be communicated with the Graduate School. There was a discussion about how the certification process would work for this program, with Dean Otley explaining how the certification process works in other areas at the University of Oregon.

Benedict McWhirter moved that the Graduate Council approve the Proposal for the Initiation of a New Instructional Program Leading to the Ecological Design Certificate in Architecture & Allied Arts, and Harry Price seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Graduate Student Enrollment Growth

Dean Linton began the discussion by asking the Graduate Council to think of strategies regarding graduate student enrollment growth, particularly increasing doctoral enrollment to maintain our standing as a research institution. We have data on enrollment status as well as exit survey data to guide our process. The strategies need to be connected to the University's diversity plan, growing quality, and partnering to recruit internationally.

Kassy Fisher distributed handouts of exit data from graduate students for each of the departments at the University. Dean Friestad noted that now that the exit surveys are available on line, the rate of response has increased to 89-90 percent. Prior to having the surveys on line, the response rate was 39 percent. As a number of graduate programs have a small enrollment, and data over time (4-5 year period) will allow us to make valid assumptions.

Dean Friestad then invited feedback from the Graduate Council asking whether there are components the Council believes should be a high priority and asking for feedback about weighting the questions that ask for students' perceptions of the quality of programs. A discussion of these issues followed.

Dean Linton stated that these are some of the issues the Departments will be asked to examine. For example, how do we measure quality? Once defined, how do we reward it? Do we grow for the sake of growth, or do we think more about right-sizing departments? What about Doctoral vs. Terminal vs. Masters Degrees? Professional vs. Arts and Sciences? The societal need, or market demand—do we fit the programs to fill the societal need? Do we reinvent curriculum change, connect disciplines—such as the Certificate in Architecture and Allied Arts that we have been discussing today?

Professor Cherry said he would be interested to see comparison data regarding graduate stipends with sister institutions. Dean Linton replied that Kassy Fisher has been looking into this and can bring this information to the next meeting of the Graduate Council.

Professor Price asked about correlation within the assessment questions from the exit survey. Dean Friestad said there was a correlation found between the responses indicating a high quality of faculty and the perceived quality of the education received.

Professor Russial suggested that to obtain a better yield we could focus on what surveys show is important to students—quality faculty and the total compensation package for graduate students.

Dean Linton asked the Council members to talk to people in their departments and get feedback to bring back to the Council regarding growth and quality of growth. That would help us to know we are moving in the right direction with regard to a departmental perspective.

Dean Friestad noted that many departments are in the throes of making decisions for fall term. Our data shows that applications are up eight percent. **(Marian—both Kassy and I had in our notes that we weren't sure if you said applications were up 8 or 80 percent.)**

Dean Friestad encouraged Council members to submit applications for the Promising Scholar Awards to promote diversity within the University of Oregon. The Graduate School provides a tuition waiver and stipend, with the Department providing second year funding.

Dean Linton requested feedback from Council members by the end of Spring cycle regarding graduate student enrollment growth.

The Council adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Li-Shan Chou, Secretary