

MINUTES
The Graduate Council
April 16, 2008
Johnson Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Val Burris, Christian Cherry, Li-Shan Chou, Marian Friestad (ex officio), Michael Hames-Garcia, Mark Johnson, Rich Linton (ex officio), Benedict McWhirter, Wayne Mikkelson, Ron Mitchell, Brook Muller, Harry Price, John Russial, Mark Watson (ex officio), Yuan Xu.

Members Absent: Corbett Upton

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

The meeting was called to order at 3:35. The minutes from February 20, 2008 were approved as amended.

Announcements: Kassy Fisher updated the Graduate Council on award competitions:

UO Doctoral Fellowship Awards: Three \$18,000 stipend plus tuition awards were given to Erin Rokita, Comparative Literature; Jenn Marlon, Geography; and Josh Fisher, Anthropology. A luncheon for the recipients and their advisors will be held May 23, 2008.

Margaret McBride Lehrman Fellowship: This award is \$10,000 plus tuition, and this year's recipient is Brenden Wiley, Creative Writing. Again, thanks to the Committee:

Thanks Ron Mitchell, Benedict McWhirter, and Michael Hames-Garcia who made these selections.

Smith Summer Professional Development Award: There are 40 applications under review by John Russial, Brook Muller, and Yuan Xu who will be meeting on Tuesday, April 22, 2008 to select three to four recipients for these \$3000 awards. Deadlines for submission have just recently passed for the Southeast Asian Studies Award, Betty Foster McCue Fellowship, and the Stein Teaching Award. These applications will also be reviewed by Brook Muller, Yuan Xu, and John Russial

University Club Foundation Award: The deadline for UO nominations is Friday, April 18, 2008. The award increased this year from \$5000 to \$7500.

The **OUS SYLFF Fellowship for International Research** is also in process, with applicants from PSU, OSU and UO.

New Business: Modification of Doctoral Dissertation Committee Policy

Dean Friestad distributed a handout with proposed changes to the existing Doctoral Dissertation Committee Policy. She noted that the proposal included minor changes in the Policy sections defining Committee Chair, Department Representatives, and Outside Representative; as well changes needed to make the policy consistent with the recently adopted Non-tenure-track faculty (NTTF) policy.

Professor Xu suggested that instead of using the terminology "tenure-track" instruction faculty, the terminology should be "tenured or tenure-track" instruction faculty.

A change in the Outside Representative section of the policy adds the language "in a UO doctoral degree granting department." Dean Friestad noted that the proposed modifications reflect longstanding Graduate School policies and practices, although the specific language had been dropped from the current version of the published policy.

There was an extended discussion and the following issues were raised:

- Faculty who are not from UO doctoral-degree granting departments
- Faculty who do not have a doctoral degree
- Faculty from other institutions serving on dissertation committees

- Limits on who is qualified to serve.
- Faculty who are on a dissertation committee and then move to another institution or retire
- Faculty who may serve on numerous dissertation committees only because students know of their willingness to sign off on the process

Because of the number of edits that needed to be made to the Doctoral Dissertation Committee Policy and in order to incorporate suggestions made by the Graduate Council, the issue was tabled until the next session of the Graduate Council.

Old Business: Graduate Enrollment Initiatives

At the last Graduate Council meeting members were asked to talk to their Departments about ideas for graduate enrollment growth and provide feedback to the Council. Dean Linton noted that these growth strategies will help us move forward. These strategies may include “right sizing” for some departments and not necessarily just growth. Suggestions included recruiting weekends, increasing funding, and increasing GTF stipends to enable UO to compete with other institutions.

Dean Friestad described the OUS Graduate Education Policy Package proposal that is being submitted to the State Board of Higher Education and the Legislature. The Chancellor wants to focus on doctoral education and is proposing an investment of \$50 million over three biennia.

OUS will request a \$10 million investment in 2009-2011, with \$6 million allocated for competitive stipends, bridge funding, and eliminating fees; \$3.5 million allocated for fellowships; and \$0.5 million for paid childbirth leave.

Dean Linton said that there is a separate policy package for research as well. He noted that this is the first time at a system level the Chancellor is advocating for graduate education and research. The next few months will tell us how the Board will act.

Dean's Updates:

Associate Dean Search: Dean Linton thanked the Graduate Council for meeting with the two candidates for the position of Associate Dean in the Graduate School. He encouraged those who had not submitted feedback regarding the candidates to do so.

Post-Campaign Priorities: Dean Linton reported that UO Leadership has been charged by the Provost with finding out what are the “big ideas” (themes) which reflect opportunities for UO to lead nationally and internationally. Examples of “big ideas” include sustainability, and connected research across disciplines. Dean Linton asked the Graduate Council to find out perspectives of what targeted opportunities might be for their departments.

GTFF Bargaining: A document was distributed that outlined the GTFF contract negotiations. Dean Linton stated that one of the things the GTFF is requesting is an increase in their insurance cap. The UO will work on elevating benefits, but cannot do so at the cost of GTF salaries. The Graduate School website will provide information on the status of GTFF contract negotiations.

The Graduate Council adjourned at 5:03 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Li-Shan Chou, Secretary