MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
Friday, October 12, 2018 – 3:00 PM
Robert Scott Small, Room 235

Chair – Jon Hakkila, Associate Dean of the Graduate School

Members and Guests Present: Mary Bergstrom (RO), Divya Bhati (OIEP), Annalisa Calini (MATH), Jason Coy (HIST), Lucy Davis (EVSS), Roxane DeLaurell (ACBL), Mike Duvall (ENGL), Lynne Ford (AA), Alexandra Heath (CPAD/QEP), Martin Jones (MATH), Brian Lanahan (EDEL), Todd LeVasseur (RELI/QEP), Antonio Pérez-Núñez (HISP), John Peters (SMFT), Craig Plante (MBIO), Emily Rosko (MFA), Susan Simonian (MSCL), Sandy Slater (HIST/CGE), Zach Stephens (GSA), Barry Stiefel (HPCP/QEP), Fran Welch (EHHP)

GSO Staff Present: Susan Hallatt (Admissions), Robyn Olejniczak (Student Records)

I. Welcome – the meeting was called to order at 3:04pm.

II. Approval of the Minutes September 28, 2018 Meeting – unanimous approval with small correction

III. Graduate Scholars Program, QEP – Todd LeVasseur, Barry Stiefel

Barry Stiefel (HPCP/QEP) and Todd LeVasseur (RELI/QEP) reminded the group that the QEP is working to develop an opportunity for graduate students. They have discussed the scholars program several times at Graduate Council and they are seeking continued feedback. Grant Gilmore (CPAD) asked if scholars would have this reflected on their transcripts. Mary Bergstrom (RO) replied that it will not – only academic credit and earned credentials are on transcripts. Several attendees noted that the current criteria are too intensive to attract strong involvement. LeVasseur (RELI/QEP) and Stiefel (HPCP/QEP) considered removing some requirements as well as making some either/or options. When discussing the GPA requirement, Jon Hakkila (GSO) asked what the intent was – to have the program be elite and selective or have to have broad engagement. It was determined that the variety of program structure and needs was too diverse to develop a single set of criteria. Therefore, the current criteria would serve as the default, but programs could develop their own framework and work with the QEP staff to determine who joins the scholars program.

IV. New Business

A. Curriculum
   i. Accountancy

   Sandy Slater (HIST/CGE) presented the proposal to update the program’s admissions requirements to include language regarding the conditions under which the GMAT and letters of recommendation would be waived. This reflects what the admissions committee is already doing, yet makes the practice transparent to any applicant.

   The proposal passed unanimously.

   ii. English

   Slater (HIST/CGE) presented the proposal to update the prerequisite requirements for several English courses. The prerequisite prevents MFA students from enrolling themselves in these courses; they must be registered by Graduate School personnel. The removal of the prerequisites will fix this issue.
The proposals passed unanimously.

iii. Special Education

Slater (HIST/CGE) presented the proposal to terminate the Master of Arts in Teaching Special Education. She noted there was much deliberation and questions during the Committee meeting, which Dean Fran Welch addressed. The enrollments have declined to the point where the program is not sustainable and cannot be offered. There is one student left who will have an individual teach-out plan. The courses will not be deactivated since other MAT programs use them in their curriculum. Susan Hallatt (GSO) asked if the graduate certificates were also being terminated. Slater and Welch said they are not—the school receives grant funding for special education so they do not want to eliminate the remaining mechanism or curriculum that the grant is directed towards.

The proposal passed unanimously.

V. Graduate Student Association – Zach Stephens, President

Zach Stephens (GSA) told the group that the GSA is conducting elections today, October 12 and the hope is to confirm the officers at the first full meeting of the semester later in the evening. He is still working to address the recent loss of a reduced parking rate for graduate/teaching/research assistants. Robyn Olejniczak (GSO) suggested he use the time he has with the Board of Trustees at their upcoming meeting to bring up this issue. Stephens is working with Student Affairs to ensure the GSA is granted space in the plans to renovate the Stern Student Center. He is continuing to work with employers to set up a virtual career fair in the spring. He will be seeking input from program directors on any companies, organizations, or agencies they currently work with.

VI. Announcements, Updates and Reminders – GSO Staff

Hallatt (GSO) let the group know that at the November meeting, she and Ron Magnuson (MBA) will be presenting on communication campaigns using the MBA program as an example. This is the help programs start thinking about their own plans as the Graduate School moves to develop plans for each program.

Olejniczak (GSO) let the group know that the Graduate School will be hosting the fifth annual 3MT competition on November 12 from 2-4pm. Students from all programs are encouraged to participate and do not have to be completing a thesis—any type of research or project can be used. She also mentioned that the Graduate School will host its annual alumni reception on November 16 from 6-8pm in the Blacklock House. Program directors are invited.

VII. For the Good of the Order – no comments

VIII. Adjournment – the meeting adjourned at 3:54pm