Graduate Council
October 25, 2018
226 University Hall
Meeting Minutes

Graduate Council Members Present:
Gunjan Agarwal, Kristy Browning, Kate Calder, Jane Hathaway, Kari Hoyt, Andrew Martin, Jonathan Pelz, Daniel Puthawala, Jeff Walline, Hua Wang, Tracey Walterbusch

Graduate School Staff Present: Alicia Bertone, Matt Page, Jen Schlueter, Shari Speer, Susan Reeser (recorder)

B. Business
1. Assistant Dean LaTonia Stiner-Jones, College of Engineering (COE), explained the Early Offer Fellowship program in Engineering. The one-year fellowship is designed to support recruitment and retention of undergraduate students and enroll them into the engineering graduate programs. Early Offer Fellowships are focused toward underrepresented female, newly admitted, and diverse students who have participated in the Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) and in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion’s Graduate and Professional Students recruiting event. Programs recruiting these students must meet the Graduate School’s University Fellowship criteria and must guarantee funding, at the time of nomination, for the intervening fellowship years. Dean Stiner-Jones said that the COE plans to increase their Early Offer recruiting efforts for next year.

2. Professor Calder, chair of Graduate Council, reported that she will contact members prior to each of the meetings to request agenda items.

3. Dean Bertone reported that she had received near unanimous approval of the revised Graduate School Handbook from the electronic vote sent to Graduate Council on October 15. Two minor changes had been made to the Handbook following the e-Vote in the sections on Additional Admission Requirements and on Conditional Admission for English Proficiency. Dean Bertone called for a final vote of the Handbook by show of hands. Approval was unanimous.

Dean Bertone will present the Handbook to the University Senate Faculty Council on November 8 after which it will be sent to the Office of Academic Affairs, Office of Research, and the Office of Engagement prior to adding it to the Graduate School’s website.

C. Curriculum Committee Reports and Actions
1. Professor Schlueter reported on the proposal to make revisions to the Ph.D. program in Philosophy whereby the doctoral program requirement that post-candidacy students “sit in” on one philosophy course each semester without registering be changed to all graduate students are required to “audit” a course one seminar each year, in addition to the dissertation seminar, rather than to “sit in on” a course.
   ➢ A vote on the proposal was called. It was unanimously approved by Graduate Council. The proposal will be forwarded to the Council on Academic Affairs for further processing.

2. Professor Schlueter reported on the proposal from the College of Nursing to create a new Category 3 graduate certificate program titled, “Nurse Coaching Graduate Certificate.” The certificate program is being proposed to provide contemporary evidence-based content in nurse coaching in a variety of healthcare and community settings in which the promotion of health and wellness are a focus.
   ➢ A vote on the proposal was called. It was unanimously approved by Graduate Council. The proposal will be forwarded to the Council on Academic Affairs for further processing.
Professor Schlueter explained the Graduate Bridge Program (GBP) for Under-Prepared Students proposal that will be administered by the Graduate School. The graduate admission designation allows underprepared students to have graduate standing before entering a program and a full load of degree-applicable coursework. The program is being proposed for students who may need additional time, mentoring, coursework, adaptation, or a lower course load to have a successful transition into a full-time graduate programs. The proposal was vetted by the Graduate School, Graduate and Professional Admission, Academic Program Advisory Committee (APAC), and the University Registrar.

A vote on the proposal was called. It was unanimously approved by Graduate Council. The proposal will be forwarded to the Council on Academic Affairs for further processing.

3. Professor Schlueter gave an overview of the proposal to formalize the admission procedures for the Master of Sports Coaching AND to address the Graduate Bridge Program. The Master of Sports Coaching was provisionally approved, by the combined Graduate Council/CAA Curriculum subcommittee, with the caveat that the new Graduate Bridge Program, currently in its approval process, will supersede this agreement once completed.

A vote on the proposal was called. It was unanimously approved by Graduate Council. The proposal will be forwarded to the Council on Academic Affairs for further processing.

**D. Announcements from Dean Alicia Bertone**

1. Reported that revisions to the Fellowship Guidelines were almost complete and will be sent to programs soon. Revisions included streamlining and clarification of the processes. The burden to the faculty review committees was also reduced by increasing the numbers of reviewers on both the University Fellowship and on the Graduate Enrichment Fellowship Review Committees and by reducing the number of reviewers for each nomination from four to three.

2. Reported that the Graduate School has made early Inclusive Excellence Fellowship offers to 14 separate programs, each receiving one, 1-year fellowship for the 2019-20 academic year. To be eligible for the Inclusive Excellence Fellowship, prospective students must apply, be admitted through the standard admissions process, be nominated for a fellowship by the December 1 deadline, and have a minimum GPA of 3.6. The programs were informed about possible prospective students attending the Office of Diversity and Inclusion’s Annual Graduate and Professional Student Recruitment Initiative.

3. Reported on discussions taking place to make improvements to the Graduate School’s Fellowship competitions, such as developing a mission statement for fellowships and finding ways to clarify criteria, including but not limited to underrepresented attributes and overcoming hardships, for nominating students for Graduate Enrichment Fellowships. A review is underway to develop a holistic appraisal of students based on academic achievements such as, awards, honors, publications; experiences such as service, international travel, employment; and characteristics, such as underrepresentation in a particular field, and those who have overcome hardships. Additional improvements to the fellowship competitions are being considered but will not be implemented until they are thoroughly vetted.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.