Graduate Academic Council
2009 – 2010

Minutes of the Council meeting of May 7, 2010
Approved by the Council on 9/3/2010.

In attendance: J. Baronner (staff), J. Bartow (staff), F. Bolton (staff), S. Chittur,
                  S. Commuri, N. Fahrenkopf, C. Fox, L. Fuller, T. Groves, L. Kranich
                  (Chair), H. Miller, K. Reinhold, K. Williams (Guest)

Unable to attend: J. Kimball, M. Pryse

1. The minutes from 4/7/2010 were unanimously approved with a requested change to the
   Dean's report.

2. Chairs report – L. Kranich

   Kevin Williams has been selected as the new Dean of Graduate Studies effective
   6/1/2010. He was invited by the Chair to attend today's meeting. Group introductions
   were made prior to the start of the meeting.

   The Senate held a meeting on April 12th, and the Executive Committee of the Senate held
   their meeting on April 26th. The deactivation of the Russian MA and Certificate of
   Advanced Study Programs was passed by the Senate. Susanna Fessler was elected the
   Senate Vice Chair for 2010-2011. The Reactivation of the Doctoral Program in
   Organizational Studies was approved by both the Executive Committee and UPPC. The
   proposal will be presented at the May 10th Senate meeting. The Chair sent to Members via
   e-mail a copy of the draft Strategic Plan and requested members' comments. He
   emphasized the importance of the document and that it will probably set the tone for
   graduate education in the next four years. With only two responses, the Chair requested
   the remaining members respond as soon as possible. Jon Bartow mentioned that he
   attended a full day retreat for the Strategic Planning Task Force this past Wednesday, and
   the task force's work has been concluded.

3. Committee Reports

   CAAS – H. Miller, Chair

   Case #2009-10-2. CAAS voted 4-1-0 in favor of the student with specific
   recommendations on how the student should move forward. Programs differ on how
   students are notified of their progress, and no university-wide regulations exist. Jon
   Bartow will draft an annual reminder message for the Graduate Dean to dispense to all
   programs. No legislation is required. The Council approved this case by a vote of 8-0-0.

   Case #2009-10-3. CAAS denied a student's petition to be reinstated into the program.
   The student did not grieve an unsatisfactory grade but wanted reinstatement. The Council
   voted 9-0-0 to approve CAAS's recommendation.

   Case #2009-10-4. CAAS reviewed the case and voted that the student should be afforded
   an opportunity to re-take a portion of the qualifying examination. The Council discussed

the case at length and agreed to vote in favor of CAAS's report on the condition that the following be added to their final report: "The structure of the retake should be consistent with such past practice. Steps should be taken to ensure objectivity." Motion to accept CAAS's report with improved language was passed by the Council by a vote of 9-0-0.

<u>CC&I – T. Groves, Chair</u>

Four items of business were discussed.

A. The College of Arts and Science Department of Psychology request to change the name of the Biopsychology PhD program to "Behavioral Neuroscience." The Committee voted for the name change. The proposed name change will go to the Senate as a report, but no Senate action is required. The Council voted to accept the name change by a 9-0-0 vote.

B. The College of Arts and Science Department of Psychology requested to drop the GRE Subject Test in Psychology for PhD applicants to the Social/Personality program. This test is not required by many other universities. The council voted and passed the proposal by a vote of 9-0-0.

C. The College of Arts and Science Department of Psychology requested to drop the GRE Subject Test in Psychology for PhD applicants to the Biopsychology/Behavioral Neuroscience program. Many students have not been exposed to the test subject material, and the department did not believe the test material was applicable to biopsychology's course of study. The Council voted to accept the Committee's recommendation by a vote of 9-0-0.

D. The Department of Computer Science proposed a revision to the Computer Science M.S. program. Four core courses for a total of 14 credits would be replaced with two core courses plus a choice of two other courses resulting in a total of 13 or 14 credits. Required credits for fulfillment of the program would be reduced from 32 to 31 credits. In the follow-up discussion, it was recommended that the Committee's report be updated by adding the word "to" to the second to the last sentence in the second paragraph. The ending result would be "The internship …. demonstrate the ability to put science and/or managerial preparation to work in business…." The Council voted 9-0-0 to approve the Committee's report.

<u>CEPP – S. Commuri, Chair</u>

The Committee had nothing to report.

4. Old Business

Jon Bartow is working on the development of a graduate certificate policy and plans to provide a report to GAC in the fall. Jon also is continuing work on a graduate level course syllabus policy and a policy for course grade changes (primarily, Incompletes).

The Chair has not received any further updates regarding the graduate program assessments. Discussions will be moved to the fall meetings.

An e-mail was sent to members by the Chair regarding their desire to continue serving on GAC. Continuance must be confirmed via the Senate web page, and this also includes GAC committees. GAC is a two-year appointment.

5. New Business

Strategic Plan – Graduate Education Section

The Chair pointed out that the University Senate and its Councils are not represented among the responsible units for many of the Action Steps included in the Draft Strategic Plan. This is contrary to the Senate Charter, which charges GAC and UPPC, respectively, with the responsibility for the conduct of the University's graduate educational program (GAC) and the responsibility for the oversight and development of the educational, research and service programs of the University and the responsibility to review, with respect to strategic and budgetary goals, proposals for new academic programs and actions affecting continuance of existing programs (UPPC). GAC should be included in Action Steps 1.1-1.3. A member referred to Objective 3 regarding program resources and stressed that competitive stipends are necessary to recruit quality students. Merit based awards, such as the Presidential Fellowship program, should be reinstated to provide extra funds for attracting top students. Also, efforts should be expanded to identify outside donors, possibly creating endowed/named graduate assistantships.

Section 3.2 discusses investing in the University's Libraries. Heather Miller mentioned that the Library's budget has been consistently cut, there is no longer a Libraries Development Officer, electronic equipment is expensive, etc. She referred to an article in Harvard magazine concerning problems facing academic libraries which she will forward to the Council. Action Step 6.1 suggests constituting GAC as a year-round body. Given that the Council has been able to complete its business during the academic year, this would appear unwarranted. Also, such a step could limit the participation by 10-month teaching faculty. Action Step 6.2 suggests exploring the possibility of creating a Graduate School. Professor Williams mentioned that there are different administrative structures or models for graduate education. The benefit of a Graduate School would be to unify benefits for graduate students in one centralized location. In other colleges, the Graduate School is more closely aligned with the Division of Research.

6. Future Meetings

The Council's future meetings will be determined in the fall.

END OF GAC 5/7/2010 MINUTES

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