

GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING

July 24, 2009

Minutes

Those in attendance were: Wendy Bollag, Robert Gibson, Patricia Cameron, Moataz Elkasrawy, Lynnette McCluskey, Doug Keskula, Stephen Hsu, Jennifer Waller, Gretchen Caughman, Christina Wilson, and Ulf Wikesjo

- I. Dr. Wendy Bollag, presiding for Dr. Elizabeth Leibach, called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.
- II. Consideration of the Minutes – April 24, 2009 meeting
The minutes were considered and approved as written.
- III. Announcements and Reports
 - a. University Faculty Senate
No report.
 - b. Graduate Student Organization
Moataz (Taz) Elkasrawy was welcomed as the new GSO President. He stated that the other officers were: Vice President – Samuel Herberg, Secretary – Crista Royal, Treasurer – Renee Bozard, Social Chair – Colleen Carey, SGA Representatives – Davies Agyekum, Yashoda Puttabyatappa, Scott Webster, and Christina Wilson. Two SGA representative positions have not yet been filled. The new officers (Executive Committee) met on July 17 to review the Bylaws and discuss plans for the new year. One objective is to increase the awareness of the GSO among the different programs of the SGS. In keeping with that goal, it would be desirable for the remaining two representative positions to be filled by students from programs other than the biomedical sciences. The GSO also wants to establish better communication with the students. The Executive Committee is still working on social events and the calendar for the upcoming year. They have also discussed the possibility of reviving the GSO Newsletter, several issues of which was published about four years ago but has not been in some time.
 - c. Updates on Previous Action Items
Dr. Bollag noted that there was some question regarding the furlough and how it might affect an employee's health insurance. It was noted that a campus website has been developed and is being updated frequently with information related to furloughs. She also apologized for not following up on a previous action item by making a formal inquiry about having a representative from SGS on the Presidential Search Committee.

Dr. Caughman reported that, per the Council's approval in concept of the consolidated PhD Comprehensive Examination with the understanding

that it needed further refinement, she referred the proposed format to the Biomedical Sciences PhD program senior leadership group (program directors and department chairs) for review, and held a meeting of that group for discussion and decision. She requested draft descriptions from each program detailing their specific proposed plans by August 1. She will then compile these and re-distribute to the senior leadership group for review and further comment prior to putting them into effect for the upcoming Fall 2009 class.

- d. Dean's Report
No report.
- e. Other Announcement
None

IV. New Business

- a. Faculty Appointments
The following faculty were considered and recommended for approval:
Dr. Yukai He
Dr. Keith Robertson
Dr. Ann Sreekumar
Dr. Yunchao Su
Dr. Rafal Pacholczyk
- b. New Vascular Biology Course Proposal
Vascular Biology submitted a new course proposal, "Cell Signaling in Vascular Biology". After discussion it was approved with the provision that the number of credit hours (listed as 3) be reduced to be commensurate with the number of contact hours (listed as 2).
- c. Election of SGS Graduate Council Chair-elect
After discussion, Dr. Wendy Bollag was elected Council Chair-elect. Dr. Jennifer Waller was elected as the new 3-year SGS representative to the University Faculty Senate.

V. Other

Dr. Caughman stated that current data indicate the SGS will have 178 new students this year compared to 139 last year. Twenty-six biomedical science PhD students are expected. One major increase in applications and anticipated enrollment is in the CNL program. In total, there were over 600 applications to School of Graduate Studies programs compared to about 400 last year.

VI. Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 PM.