Professional and Graduate Student Coordinating Committee
Minutes of April 14, 2015 Meeting

Present: Dean William F. Tate, Committee Chair; Joseph Fox, Business; Micah Northcutt, Business; Tom Evola, Engineering; Michael Walker, Engineering; Drew Hagan, Graduate Arts & Sciences; Elizabeth Walsh, Law; Rene Morency, Law; Lisa Moscoso, Medicine; Abby Rosenberg, Medicine; Estelle Rochman, Social Work; Sharada Shantharam, Social Work; Greg Ebersole, Graduate Student Rep to WU Board of Trustees, ex officio; Tess Thompson, Graduate Student Rep to WU Board of Trustees, ex officio; Assistant Dean Kimberly Curtis, Graduate Arts & Sciences, ex officio; Associate Dean Sheri Notaro, Graduate Arts & Sciences, ex officio

Guest: Mary Campbell, Associate Vice Chancellor for Real Estate

Absent: Diana Ossa Sierra, Architecture; Patricia Olynyk, Art; Dayna Kriz, Art; Caroline Merz, GPC President, ex officio

The meeting was called to order by Dean William F. Tate, Committee Chair, on April 14, 2015, at 4:01 p.m. in the Liberman Graduate Center Conference Room, DUC 300.

The Committee considered and approved the minutes of the February 9, 2015, meeting of the Professional and Graduate Student Coordinating Committee.

Report of the Committee Chair

The Diversity Forum organized by Lameese Eldesouky and Ervin Malakaj went well. A recommendation of the Graduate Student Senate’s Diversity Report is to begin facilitating teaching assistantship training on diversity. Many of the Diversity Committee’s recommendations are moving forward. There will be a meeting with Hank Webber in a few weeks on housing. The Provost mentioned interest in short and long term housing. Dean Tate commended the students’ work.

An analysis of PhD programs at our peer institutions shows that other institutions do not have credit requirements but milestones to be met instead. Dean Tate plans to discuss deregulating WU’s credit requirement in fall. The credit requirement can extend time to degree, but deregulation would allow programs to design what is appropriate for them.

Dean Tate closed with an announcement of the new graduate student representatives to the Board of Trustees: Ashley Macrander, a 4th year PhD candidate in Education, and Avik Som, a 2nd year MD/PhD student in Biomedical Engineering.

Report of the Graduate Professional Council President

In lieu of a presentation at today’s meeting, Caroline Merz submitted the handout attached to these minutes, with events and accomplishments since the February ProGradS meeting, upcoming events, and the 2015-16 elected officers of GPC.
Report from Graduate Student Representatives to Board of Trustees

Housing is an important issue to almost all graduate and professional students, especially international students, people with disabilities, and graduate students with children. Quadrangle Housing has a perception of being unresponsive to resident complaints, with website information about housing often outdated. The meeting Quadrangle offered in fall 2014 with student leaders was, however, helpful. They plan to increase communication and transparency about the housing needs of graduate students by meeting with graduate student leaders at least once a semester, involving graduate students in survey development, refining the mechanism for addressing problems, and ensuring access to public transportation.

Joe Fox encouraged the committee to consider asking Mary Campbell to come to all ProGradS meetings next year, and Dean Tate agreed that she would be an ex officio member in 2015-16.

Tess noted that student representatives should be encouraged to present to Board of Trustees subcommittees. She and Greg will present to the Research-Graduate Affairs Committee about community engagement, which builds on conversations throughout the year among the Board of Trustees. Examples of community engagement include the Young Scientist Program, Saturday Neighbor Clinic, Lailea, and Project Dive. There are obvious benefits for both students and the St. Louis community. The university should build on existing programs and create new ones.

Recommendations for 2015-16 Agenda Topics

1. Housing
2. Sexual Assault Task Force Information
3. Revisit career preparation for graduate students, especially with new Vice Chancellor for Students, and possibly have her attend one of the meetings.
4. Invite the Teaching Center to discuss what they do and what is useful to graduate students in the way of training for teaching assistantships and/or professional development for an academic career.
5. Build relationship with the Office for International Students and Scholars (OISS) and invite director to a meeting to discuss international graduate student issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy P. Pope, PhD
Associate Dean, Graduate School