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

Guest: Ervin Malakaj, Ph.D. Candidate in German; Chair, GSS Diversity Committee

Absent: Diana Ossa Sierra, Architecture; Patricia Olynyk, Art; Dayna Kriz, Art; Drew Hagan, Graduate Arts & Sciences

The meeting was called to order by Dean William F. Tate, Committee Chair, on February 9, 2015 at 4:03 p.m. in Liberman Graduate Center Conference Room, DUC 300.

Minutes

The Committee considered and approved the Minutes of the December 10, 2014 meeting of the Professional and Graduate Student Coordinating Committee.

Report of the Graduate Professional Council President

Caroline Merz, GPC President, presented a Report on GPC’s recent events and accomplishments, and mission and aims (handouts). GPC’s General Body Meetings in January and February 2015 maintained the group’s level of attendance and participation from representatives as experienced thus far during the Academic Year, remaining an overall increase over the previous few years. Guest speakers also attended each meeting. Phil Valko, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Sustainability made a presentation in January, and Talya Zax from ServiceWorks presented in February. In January, GPC’s Community Service Committee sponsored “GPC Does National Reading Day” to read to the elderly at nursing homes, and the first meeting of GPC’s Constitution Committee occurred. On February 6, GPC’s Party with a Purpose was held at the Regional Arts Commission—a fundraiser for Big Brothers Big Sisters, which raised $800 and had an attendance of 100. In additional news, GPC’s new website launched on January 8, 2015, with a newly-formatted weekly newsletter. The GPC design contest was a success and GPC has unveiled its new logo designed by Law student Ethan Bell. These activities advanced GPC’s achievement of its aims and goals for the 2014-15 Academic Year: increasing graduate student participation and involvement (via attendance at General Body meetings averaging 30 students with 90% attendance by representatives); improving marketing and communications (via a new website and logo); and adding education and advocacy to GPC’s meetings (via guest speakers).
Report of the Graduate Student Representatives to W.U. Board of Trustees

Graduate Student Representatives Tess Thompson and Greg Ebersole reported that they hosted two successful Information Sessions for students interested in applying for the two Board of Trustees graduate student representative positions for 2015-16. They have also been brainstorming topics for their end-of-year presentations to the Research Graduate Affairs Committee and Board of Trustees, such as community engagement which has been an ongoing theme at this year's Board meetings.

Graduate Student Senate Diversity Report

Ervin Malakaj, Ph.D. Candidate in German and Chair of the GSS Diversity and Inclusiveness Committee presented information about the GSS Diversity Report (handout). The Report was published in Fall 2014 as a collaborative effort among student leaders in graduate and professional schools university-wide. The Report accomplishes the Committee’s mission of organizing events to promote inclusiveness for all graduate students at WU and supporting graduate student participation in university-wide efforts to promote diversity. The Report was an outgrowth of the first annual GSS Diversity Forum in Spring 2014 coordinated in response to graduate students’ lack of inclusion in the WUSTL Mosaic Project. It was a months-long initiative with the goal of articulating ways graduate students experience diversity using personal narratives (vs. statistics). The Report’s recommendations were highlighted and the upcoming 2nd Annual Diversity Forum event was announced. A discussion ensued among the Committee of ways to engage and address graduate student diversity and inclusion-related issues.

Update: Selection Process for Graduate Student Representative Positions to W.U. Board of Trustees

Assistant Dean Kim Curtis presented a brief update on the status of the Selection Process. General information about applications submitted was provided, as well as a reminder of the February 16 deadline. Upcoming Selection Committee Meetings were noted.

University Task Force on Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence

Associate Dean Lisa Moscoso reported to the Committee that the University has recently appointed a Task Force on Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence (handout). WU strives to become a national leader in sexual misconduct prevention, education, and response. Associate Dean Moscoso highlighted the participation of graduate and professional students on the Task Force’s committees. She invited ProGradS Committee members to send her any information regarding Schools’ current prevention and education initiatives for students, faculty, and staff.

New Business: Report of the Committee Chair

Dean William F. Tate, Committee Chair, reported that the Graduate School has hired a new Associate Dean, Diana Hill Mitchell, whose charge includes analysis and development of policies related to individual learning plans. He also reported that the Day of Discovery and Dialogue on race and ethnicity was a success, with over 800 registrants, 700 programs distributed at the event, and 2,500 viewers of the
live web-stream across the U.S. Over 200 questions were submitted at the event. Delegates will become Ambassadors to keep the conversation going. Graduate students were represented at the event, and a digital notebook will be created from the transcription.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Kimberly Curtis, Ph.D.
Assistant Dean, Graduate School