Professional and Graduate Student Coordinating Committee

Minutes of Meeting October 12, 2010

Present: Dean Richard J. Smith, Committee Chair; Joseph Fox, Business; Beth Schnettler, Engineering; Janet Bolin, Law; Leslie Kahl, Medicine; Taliah Weber, Architecture; Maggie Majors, Grad. Arts & Sciences; Anatoly Zlotnick, Engineering; Lance Bonner, Law; Maddie Carson, Social Work; Melissa Holtmeyer, Graduate Student Rep. 2010-2011 W.U. Board of Trustees, ex officio; Drew Gulick, Graduate Student Rep. 2010-2011 W.U. Board of Trustees, ex officio; Associate Dean Elaine Berland, ex officio

Absent: Peter MacKeith, Architecture; Patricia Olynyk, Art; Karen Acton, Social Work; Shira Berkowitz, Art; Oyinade Ogunbekun, Business; Tammi Cooks, Medicine; Michael Abramson, GPC President, ex officio

The meeting was called to order by Dean Richard J. Smith, Committee Chair, on October 12, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. in The Liberman Graduate Center Conference Room, Room 300 Danforth University Center.

Welcome and Introductions/Report of Committee Chair

Dean Richard J. Smith, Committee Chair, welcomed members to the Committee and presented a brief overview of the committee history, composition, and accomplishments. ProGradS is a standing committee of the University. Its purpose is to consider issues that affect graduate students in general (i.e. issues that are not specific to a given school, degree, or disciplines) and in the Spring semester to facilitate the selection of the two graduate student representatives to the Washington University Board of Trustees. There are two representatives from each of the eight Schools: one faculty/administrator appointed by the Dean of the School and one graduate student named by the Graduate Professional Council in cooperation with the Graduate Student Association of each School.

The ProGradS Committee has been instrumental in bringing graduate-professional student concerns and voice into the discussion and development of policies related to university-wide graduate student matters, such as housing, child care, and most recently, the creation of the new Liberman Graduate Center. The Committee serves as a forum for discussion of graduate student needs and for creative thinking about interdisciplinary interaction and opportunities.

Dean Smith stressed the importance of each ProGradS representative’s role in keeping his/her School constituents informed about issues discussed at the ProGradS meetings, and communicating concerns back to the Committee Chair as possible agenda items.

Minutes

The Committee considered and approved the Minutes of the April 21, 2010 meeting of the Professional and Graduate Student Coordinating Committee.

Report of Graduate Professional Council President

GPC Treasurer Melissa Holtmeyer, Ph.D. student in Engineering, gave the GPC report in GPC President Michael Abramson’s absence. She announced the GPC Executive Board, committees, and goals for the 2010-2011 year (handout). Successful events to date have included the third All-School New Graduate Student Welcome Reception; the GPC Welcome Back Mixer and GPC Night Out at the Cardinals. GPC upcoming events include the GPC Night at the Symphony on October 15; Parabola, the graduate student art exhibition; the GPC All-School End-of-Semester Party in December, and in the Spring, the Bridging GAPS Graduate Student Leadership Award Ceremony and Reception.

Report of the Graduate Student Representatives to the W.U. Board of Trustees

Graduate Student Representatives Melissa Holtmeyer, Ph.D. student in Engineering, and Drew Gulick, MBA student in Business, shared information from the September 30-October 1, 2010 Board of Trustees
meeting. Highlights included information about new construction; the University’s new commitment to energy reduction, and the release of the NRC doctoral program rankings.

They also previewed topics for their end-of-year presentations to the Trustees. Holtmeyer will report on her campus-wide initiative for increasing graduate student involvement in energy and environment (WU-GREEN) and Gulick will report on graduate student – alumni relations.

Report on status of annual renewal of registered university-wide graduate student groups and the Liberman Graduate Center

Associate Dean Elaine Berland, Graduate Arts & Sciences, presented the annual report on renewal of graduate student groups registered through GPC and ProGradS (handout). She reported that university-wide graduate student groups have increased the number and variety of events they sponsor; student attendance has also increased. She noted graduate student leaders’ work in addressing student needs and in organizing university-wide events. She also reported that the Liberman Graduate Center has experienced increased usage, events, and attendance since its opening in August 2008 (handout). The increased usage of the Liberman Graduate Center in the last year, as both a place for organized events and for individual drop-in use, demonstrates a proven track record of an initiative that fosters interdisciplinarity by building robust university-wide graduate student life and community. With the increased student group activities and usage of the Liberman Graduate Center, success brings the challenge of meeting the increased demand with the current available resources. Dean Smith and others noted that this is a challenge that will need to be addressed.

New Business

Dean Smith asked what graduate student groups do to advise graduate students about their rights and procedures to vote in the general election. It was noted that some School Orientations advise students about voter registration. A motion was put forth to recommend the GPC form a standing Committee to work with the Schools and the Gephardt Institute for Public Service to hold voter registration and provide information on absentee voting and voting in Missouri for graduate and professional students at GPC All School New Student Welcome Reception and at other appropriate events early in the Fall semester. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Berland, Ph.D.
Associate Dean, Graduate School