Professional and Graduate Student Coordinating Committee
Minutes of October 15, 2015 Meeting

Present: Dean William F. Tate, Committee Chair; Jose Garza, Art; Estelle Rochman, Brown School; Tom Evola, Engineering; Elizabeth Walsh, Law; Debbie Monolo, Medicine; Joseph Fox, Olin Business School; Jonathan Berger, Art; Ally Melvin, Brown School; Rene Morency, Law; Rina Amatya, Medicine; Haley Dolosic, Arts & Sciences; Mary Campbell, Real Estate, ex officio; Diana Mitchell, GSAS, ex officio, Nancy Pope, GSAS, ex officio; Ashley Macrander and Avik Som, Graduate Student Representatives to Trustees, ex officio.

The meeting was called to order by Dean William F. Tate, Committee Chair, on October 15, 2015, at 3 p.m., in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Conference Room, Cupples II 221. Dean Tate welcomed everyone and invited them to introduce themselves.

The committee considered and approved the minutes of the April 14 meeting of the Professional and Graduate Student Coordinating Committee.

Associate Dean Nancy Pope previewed the selection process for graduate student representatives to the Board of Trustees. She distributed dates for the committee members to reserve: March 2, 2016, 9:30-11:30am, Cupples II 221, to select finalists for Board of Trustees representatives; March 23, 2016, 1-3:30pm, Cupples II 221, to interview finalists for Board of Trustees representatives.

Report of the Committee Chair

One of the recommendations of last year’s ProGradS committee and others was for TA training with regard to diversity and inclusion. Materials are now being produced to be used next year in training TAs on facilitating inclusive classrooms.

The Graduate School is proposing to the Graduate Council that the 72 credit hour requirement for PhD students be abolished. Dean Tate noted that the majority of our faculty earned their PhDs at universities that did not have such a requirement, and that schools which do have such a requirement are all state universities, except for WU. This proposal is being discussed and if passed this year will be put into effect next year.

There is now a task force on off-campus housing for graduate students. Dean Tate noted that Mary Campbell is sitting on ProGradS this year as an ex officio member in order to enable discussion of this important issue at every meeting.

Report of the Graduate Professional Council President

Ally Melvin reported that the GPC has three missions this year: to increase graduate student visibility; improve graduate student involvement; and enhance education and professional development. Specific efforts to accomplish each of these goals have been identified. The GPC has also created a presidential debate committee to stay politically involved in the run-up to the election. A detailed handout on GPC events was distributed.
**Report of the Graduate Student Representatives to the Board of Trustees**

Avik Som announced that December’s Board of Trustees meeting will focus on graduate education. He and Ashley Macrander plan to give three-minute presentations on professional development in graduate school and on job placement. At future Board of Trustees meetings they anticipate a more detailed focus on how we are preparing graduate students for jobs. Avik then presented the committee with data from DBBS on its graduates’ careers. He concluded by asking ProGradS members to inform him of job placement in other units.

Ashley is preparing to talk at the March meeting about what the university and graduate student groups are doing to prepare students for a broad variety of careers. She cited the work of the Digital Humanities Workshop, the Gephardt Institute, and many graduate student groups as examples she plans to discuss.

**Presentation on Off-Campus Housing**

Mary Campbell began by explaining that the university housing system is made up of three organizations: Residential Life, for undergraduate students; Quadrangle Housing, primarily for graduate and professional students; and Parallel Properties, which rents market-rated apartments to community members. She then focused on the history of Quadrangle Housing and on the real estate plan now in place that is responding to the needs identified by graduate and professional students in a 2010 survey. The plan includes a major renovation program that began in 2012 and should be completed by 2018. Already occupancy rates have increased from 77% in 2010 to 88% in 2015; rent has increased from $0.78 to $1.20 per square foot in renovated units.

A lively conversation ensued, covering handicapped accessibility, medical student housing, shuttle services, and rising housing costs. Mary said that market-rate housing may not be affordable for some graduate students, but that perhaps Parallel Properties can keep a number of buildings available below market rate.

There being no new business, Dean Tate adjourned the meeting at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy P. Pope, Associate Dean
Graduate School of Arts & Sciences