Professional and Graduate Student Coordinating Committee

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Minutes of Meeting, December 10, 2014

Present: Dean William F. Tate, Committee Chair; Joseph Fox, Business; Micah Northcutt, Business; Michael Walker, Engineering; Elizabeth Walsh, Law; Rene Morency, Law; Drew Hagan, Graduate Arts & Sciences; Lisa Moscoso, Medicine; Abby Rosenberg, Medicine; Estelle Rochman, Social Work; Sharada Shantharam, Social Work; Caroline Merz, GPC President, ex officio; Greg Ebersole, Graduate Student Rep. W.U. Board of Trustees, ex officio; Tess Thompson, 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: Rachel Pepe, Liberman Graduate Center Manager

Absent: Diana Ossa Sierra, Architecture; Patricia Olynky, Art; Tom Evola, Engineering

The meeting was called to order by Dean William F. Tate, Committee Chair, on December 10, 2014 at 4:01 p.m. in Liberman Graduate Center Conference Room, DUC 300.

Minutes

The Committee considered and approved the Minutes of the April 3, 2014 Professional and Graduate Student Coordinating Committee Meeting.

Report of the Committee Chair

Dean Tate announced the Graduate School’s new Policy on Probation and Dismissal for Academic Reasons, approved April 24, 2014 by the Graduate Council. He stated that this policy is one phase of improving graduate education at Washington University. Another phase includes academic development plans for W.U. graduate and professional schools. Dean Tate explained that a critical best practice in exemplary programs and units is clear delineation of expectations for student learning outcomes. The ProGradS Committee is an ideal body to discuss academic development plans to dramatically improve the University’s graduate and professional programs through proactive efforts—transparency about learning objectives prior to and upon a student’s admission to the program. Dean Tate also emphasized the need to facilitate graduate students’ exploration of multiple career pathways. A discussion ensued.

Annual Report: University-Wide Graduate Student Groups (2013-14)

As Advisor to all ProGradS-registered university-wide graduate student groups, Assistant Dean Kimberly Curtis presented a report of the groups’ activities and accomplishments in 2013-14 (handout). Highlights of the Report were increased co-sponsorship of events, including partnerships of the Latino Graduate Student Alliance with both OUTgrads and Black Graduate Council; a new Graduate Students and Diversity Roundtable event, co-sponsored by 6 groups; and a new professional development event, Roads Less Traveled, featuring W.U. alumni panelists in non-traditional careers.
Rachel Pepe, Manager of the Liberman Graduate Center, presented a report of the highlights of the Center’s programming and achievements in 2013-14 (handout). As a space for conversations, community, and collaboration, the Graduate Center held over 290 meetings and events in 2013-14 with a total attendance of 3200+ graduate students, and saw a 23% increase in individual student use during Open Hours. Milestones included the 5th Anniversary of the Graduate Center and the 20th Anniversaries of GPC and the Graduate Student Senate, whose leadership throughout 1999-2008 were critical to the conception and founding of the Graduate Center. Following Rachel Pepe’s presentation, ProGradS Committee student representatives shared feedback and ideas to evolve the Center’s support for graduate and professional students.

**Review and Approval of Online Application and Selection Process for Two Graduate Student Representatives to the W.U. Board of Trustees**

The Committee reviewed the Timeline and Selection Process for applications for the position Graduate Student Representative to the W.U. Board of Trustees (handout). Newly proposed this year was for the Selection Committee to be formed from a sub-set of ProGradS Committee student and administrator representatives, and for the number of semi-finalists interviewed to be limited to five. Following a discussion, the Committee decided to retain the Board of Trustees Selection Process followed in past years to ensure all Committee members’ participation and contributions to interviews and selection. The Committee also decided to seek to select a total of five semi-finalists rather than limit the number.

**Report of the Graduate Professional Council President**

GPC President Caroline Merz gave a report of GPC’s activities in Fall 2014 (handout), including a timeline of events and accomplishments to date and her work thus far as GPC President. Caroline Merz highlighted GPC’s three overarching missions for the 2014-2015 Academic Year: increase graduate student participation and involvement, improve marketing and communications, and increase education and advocacy among GPC. Specific efforts to accomplish these goals include adding value to monthly GPC General Body Meetings by hosting an educational speaker or discussant at each, designing and publishing a new website, holding a competition to design an official GPC logo, and updating the Constitution. Caroline Merz also indicated that attendance at GPC meetings and events has increased this year, including an average attendance of 30 at General Body Meetings and a near-90% attendance rate for GPC Representatives at each meeting.

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

Graduate Student Representatives Greg Ebersole and Tess Thompson reported information from the Fall Board of Trustees and Research-Graduate Affairs Meetings. They indicated that there is much interest in graduate student participation at the meetings, including opportunities to make brief presentations.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Curtis, Ph.D.