Professional and Graduate Student Coordinating Committee

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Minutes of Meeting November 10, 2011

Present: Dean Richard J. Smith, Committee Chair; Joseph Fox, Business; Beth Schnettler, Engineering; Janet Bolin, Law; Lisa Moscoso, Medicine; Karen Cowley, Social Work; Jesse Favre, Business; Kyle Davis, Engineering; Jonathan Specht, Law; Amelia Lucisano, Medicine; Brian Chao, Social Work; Maggie Stanley Majors, Graduate Arts & Sciences; Nick Miller, GPC President, ex officio; Cong Lucy Li, Graduate Student Rep. W.U. Board of Trustees, ex officio; Daniel Conner, Graduate Student Rep. W.U. Board of Trustees, ex officio; Associate Dean Elaine Berland, Graduate A&S, ex officio

Guest: Mary Campbell, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Real Estate

Absent: Peter MacKeith, Architecture; Patricia Olynyk, Art; Anna Finneran, Architecture; Jose Garza, Art

The meeting was called to order by Dean Richard J. Smith, Committee Chair, on November 10, 2011 at 4:05 p.m. in The Liberman Graduate Center, Room 300 Danforth University Center.

Welcome & 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 responsibilities. 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 discipline) 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 Committee is responsible for the following:

1. Annual application/nomination process for selection of 2 graduate student representatives to the WU Board of Trustees.
2. Forum for discussion of graduate student needs, including safety, off-campus university housing, transportation, international student issues, student health care and insurance issues, child-care
3. Support for GPC and registered university-wide graduate student groups, including funding, university-wide graduate student listserv and server, shared office space.
4. Review and approval of registration of new university-wide graduate student groups
5. Forum for facilitating interdisciplinary interaction/program opportunities, Joint Degrees, access to courses outside department, School; reducing barriers between schools

School representatives to ProGradS are responsible for communicating committee meeting information to their Schools, and for communicating issues, concerns which a School may wish to bring to the committee for discussion or action. Communications can be emailed directly to ProGradS Chair Dean Richard J. Smith or to Associate Dean Elaine Berland.

Minutes

The Committee considered and approved the Minutes of the April 12, 2011 meeting of the Professional and Graduate Student Coordinating Committee.
Update on Off-campus Housing for Graduate and Professional Students

Assistant Vice Chancellor for Real Estate Mary Campbell presented an annual update on graduate student off-campus housing. Highlights included additional analysis of the Graduate and Professional Student Housing survey conducted in December 2010, focusing on international and law students’ preferences, and an overview of housing policy implementation, including implementing community development activities, repositioning existing assets, and renovating 6265-71 Clemens. New initiatives and pilots are underway to provide more robust programming support for professional and graduate students new to the U.S.: Quadrangle, in cooperation with the Office of International Students and Scholars, is now offering “How To” sessions offered by housing maintenance staff and Saturday shopping shuttle service to international markets. She listed several items for further research and discussion: If the University shrinks its portfolio and renovates the balance, are we forcing students of limited means into the open market? Would we need an institutional “safety net” for the university’s most vulnerable graduate students? Are there specialized needs of international graduate students who are new to the United States that need more support and how can we more effectively connect them with our existing services? She concluded by indicating her interest in updating graduate students and asked GPC to take the lead in organizing a meeting to include representatives from Quadrangle, graduate student groups, School student governments and herself early spring semester; all agreed that her annual updates to this Committee were useful and should continue.

Report of Graduate Professional Council President

GPC President Nick Miller, Ph.D. student in Arts & Sciences presented the GPC report. He announced the GPC Executive Board, committees, and goals for the 2011-2012 year (handout). Successful events to date have included the fourth All-School New Graduate Student Welcome Reception (147 attendees); the GPC Welcome Back Mixer (598 attendees) and GPC Presents: The Ph.D. Movie screening (450 attendees) at Edison Theatre followed by a reception/book-signing (150 attendees) in The Liberman Graduate Center. GPC upcoming events include Relay For Life: Graduate Student Kickoff Event on November 16; GPC Night Out at Edison Theatre: The Intergalactic Nemesis on November 18; the GPC Holiday Party at Lola in December, and in the Spring, the Graduate Research Symposium, GPC Night Out at the Blues, and the Bridging GAPS Graduate Student Leadership Award Ceremony and Reception. He also noted several highlights: members of the GPC Executive Board attended twelve different orientations on campus during the first weeks of this school year; GPC has increased its visibility on Facebook significantly, and collaborated with The Liberman Graduate Center to create a new postcard that helps cross-promote The Graduate Center and GPC.

Report of the Graduate Student Representatives to the W.U. Board of Trustees 2011-12

Graduate Student Representatives Daniel Conner and Cong Lucy Li presented selected highlights of the recent Trustee meetings they each attended, including the September 22, 2011 Research Graduate Affairs Committee meeting and the September 23, 2011 meeting of the full WU Board of Trustees.

Report on Status of The Liberman Graduate Center & Registered University-wide Graduate Student Groups

Associate Dean Elaine Berland, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences and Director of the Liberman Graduate Center, presented an annual report on the Liberman Graduate Center and the renewal of university-wide graduate student groups registered through ProGradS and GPC (handout). The Liberman Graduate Center continues to have increased use as a graduate student campus place to facilitate interdisciplinary interaction and university-wide graduate student events. During 2010-2011 the Graduate
Center was the site for 340+ events with ~3700 attendees; individual student drop-in use has seen a 118% since the Center opening in August 2008. The number of registered university-wide graduate student groups remains fairly consistent; however, group membership, the number of events organized by groups and the number of attendees continue to increase. Further university-wide graduate student groups, including GPC, are organizing a broad range of key programs and resources to address graduate student needs and interests; this is particularly evident in the international graduate student groups’ sponsorship of airport pick-ups of new international graduate students, new student welcome receptions, and the GPC All School Graduate Student Welcome that features opportunities for voter registration. Associate Dean Berland asked School representatives to develop links to the Liberman Graduate Center, GPC and university-wide graduate student groups on their School websites.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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