Professional and Graduate Student Coordinating Committee

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Minutes of Meeting April 12, 2011

Present: Dean Richard J. Smith, Committee Chair; Joseph Fox, Business; Beth Schnettler, Engineering; Janet Bolin, Law; Leslie Kahl, Medicine; Melissa Holtmeyer, Engineering; Barbara Barrow, Graduate Arts & Sciences; Michael Abramson, 2010-2011 GPC President, ex officio; Nick Miller, 2011-2012 GPC President, ex officio; Drew Gulick, Graduate Student Rep. 2010-2011 W.U. Board of Trustees, ex officio; Associate Dean Elaine Berland, Graduate A&S, ex officio

Absent: Peter MacKeith, Architecture; Patricia Olynnyk, Art; Karen Cowley, Social Work; Taliah Weber, Architecture; Lauren Pressler, Art; Oyinade Ogunbekun, Business; Lance Bonner, Law; Tammi Cooks, Medicine; Maddie Carson, Social Work

The meeting was called to order by Dean Richard J. Smith, Committee Chair, on April 12, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. in The Liberman Graduate Center Conference Room, Room 300 Danforth University Center.

Minutes
The Committee considered and approved the Minutes of the February 16, 2011 meeting of the Professional and Graduate Student Coordinating Committee.

Report of the Committee Chair
Dean Richard J. Smith, Committee Chair, announced and welcomed the incoming 2011-2012 GPC President, Nick Miller, Graduate Arts & Sciences. Dean Smith thanked Michael Abramson for his leadership as 2010-2011 GPC President, and presented him with the traditional WU umbrella. He also recognized Graduate Student Representatives to the W.U. Board of Trustees Melissa Holtmeyer, Engineering, and Drew Gulick, Business, for their service and presented them with certificates. Dean Smith noted that the finalist candidates for the 2011-2012 graduate student representative positions were scheduled to be interviewed by Board of Trustees Chairman Stephen Brauer on April 27, 2011.

Report of Graduate Professional Council President
GPC President Michael Abramson, Business, presented the GPC Annual Report (handout). He highlighted Spring events, including the annual GPC Bridging GAPS Awards and Ceremony and the upcoming GPC end-of-year party. He also reported graduate student concerns brought to GPC attention this year: library access and fitness center fees for graduate students. Abramson noted that this year was a tremendous success for GPC which met its goals of attracting students from all of the graduate and professional schools and fostering interdisciplinary camaraderie and interaction. Major accomplishments included: more and greater diversity of events; greater attendance; increased involvement of students in leadership; new website and creation of new meetings of the “G9”, presidents from all of the graduate and professional school governments and the president of GPC. He attributed GPC’s success to several factors: effective use of the GPC online calendar and listserv to publicize events to graduate students; leadership of the GPC Board to develop a broad range of events to serve a diverse student population, and use of the Liberman Graduate Center to make it more convenient for graduate students in different schools to meet and work together.
Abramson recommended full-status recognition of the Black Graduate Council on behalf of GPC which had approved BGC request (handout). ProGradS Committee voted unanimously to approve full-status registration for Black Graduate Council effective immediately.

**Preview Reports of the Graduate Student Representatives to the W.U. Board of Trustees 2010-2011**

Melissa Holtmeyer, Ph.D. student in Energy, Environmental, and Chemical Engineering, previewed her report on “Graduate Student Involvement in Sustainability at Washington University” (handout). Her report focused on the importance of involving graduate students, who constitute approximately half of the student body at Washington University, in sustainability initiatives and opportunities. She noted that there have been several graduate-student led initiatives, but she advocated for a centralized place for current, new, and prospective graduate students to develop partnerships between school-based groups, and encourage collaboration with undergraduates, faculty and staff.

Drew Gulick, MBA student, previewed his report titled “Connecting Graduate Students with Alumni” (handout). Drew discussed existing ways that Washington University attempts to connect graduate and professional students to alumni and provided recommendations to improve the process. He stated that alumni can help graduate and professional students with networking and job opportunities; however, he noted that current information at the University is outdated and has limited visibility among students. He proposed creating a new system with software options featuring alumni opt-in; updated information; alumni connections across the different graduate schools, and robust search capabilities. He stated that the university Alumni & Development Office and School Dean’s Offices should have access and be involved in creating and operating the new system.

**New Business**

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

Respectfully submitted,

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