Professional and Graduate Student Coordinating Committee
Minutes of October 18, 2018 Meeting

Present: Audrey Treece, Architecture; Jordan McGirk, Art; Dan Mulrow, Arts & Sciences; Ashley Macrander, Business; Catherine Freesmeier, Engineering; Eugene Kim, Engineering; Elizabeth Walsh, Law; Lisa Moscoso, Medicine; Danielle Bristow, Brown; Aishwarya Nagar, Brown; William F. Tate, Graduate School; Sheri Notaro, Graduate School; Alex Reiter, Graduate Student Representative to the Board of Trustees; Ninecia Scott, Graduate Student Representative to the Board of Trustees; John Ukenye, GPC President, ex officio; Mary Campbell, Real Estate, ex officio; Bryan Lenz, Recreation Sports & Campus Fitness, ex officio; James Parker, Student Affairs

Absent: Cierra Higgins, Architecture; Sarah Adcock, Art; Mukund Birje, Business; Kevin Cowling, Law; Ziheng Xu, Medicine; Cheri LeBlanc, Student Health Services, ex officio

Dean William F. Tate called the meeting to order on October 18, 2018 at 3:02 PM, in the Graduate School Conference Room, Cupples II, 204.

Welcome and Introductions
Introduction of all committee members. Welcome from Dean Tate.

Consideration and Approval of Minutes
The committee considered and unanimously approved the minutes of the April 3, 2018 meeting of the Professional and Graduate Student Coordinating Committee.

Report of the Committee Chair
Dean Tate began by thanking everyone for serving on the committee. He explained the importance of the committee and why it exists highlighting its role to provide counsel and guidance across school functions for all graduate and professional students. Recent committee contributions to the graduate education experience include development of the Lewis Center, enhanced leadership opportunities and other student affairs matters, and application functions made uniform across schools with greater collaborations. He challenged everyone to think of ways to continue to improve the university.

Report of the Graduate Professional Council President
John Ukenye detailed the results of a survey the GPC conducted last spring. The survey had 600 respondents and major results included a desire from students to have more community engagement and offer different timing of events to increase participation.
Within the last year, GPC has made a more concerted social media advertising effort that has led to more participation in interdisciplinary programing. He expressed that partnering with the Graduate Student Senate has been an impactful relationship. Across the board, events this year have been very successful and have seen larger participation than last year.

Report of the Graduate Student Representatives to the Board of Trustees

Ninecia Scott reported updates from the recent Board of Trustees meeting and committee meetings. The Medical Finance Committee and Buildings, Grounds and Real Estate Committee approved the early planning phase of a new building to house neuroscience labs and include a vivarium, expanded parking, and commercial space. Lori Setton, the biomedical engineering department chair, presented at the Research-Graduate Affairs Committee on the BME degree program. She went in depth on the importance of increasing faculty and opportunities for students in industry. Several faculty members in SEAS and SOM were approved for promotion during the Educational Policy Committee meeting. Chairman Craig Schnuck sent an email to the entire University on Oct. 8th stating that Chancellor Wrighton will conclude his tenure as chancellor on June 1, 2019. However, beginning January 1, 2019, Chancellor Designate Martin will serve as Chancellor Elect and be in charge of day-to-day operations. Ninecia Scott and Alex Reiter outlined their project for the year. They will propose to the Board the repurposing of part of south campus into dedicated family housing.

Report of GAPS Committee

Danielle Bristow explained that the Graduate and Professional Student (GAPS) Committee is an informal working group of assistant/associate deans and student affairs staff that meet monthly to talk about best practices for any graduate and professional student topics. She explained that the committee might revisit the university alcohol policy this year. The committee is also working to launch “Think About It”, a sexual assault prevention and alcohol and drug education program, for all graduate and professional students.

Review of Graduate Student Welcome and Preview of Promising Practice Symposium

James Parker gave a preview of the upcoming Promising Practices Symposium. Last year’s conference was a big success and WashU is hosting the second one on June 6-8, 2019. There is an open call to topics with a wide range of 50-minute submission formats including workshops, panels, and round tables. All submissions must include content, learning objectives, and outcomes. There are plans to have poster sessions and keynote speakers.

He also detailed the success of the All-Graduate Student Welcome, an institutional effort to welcome graduate students to campus. This was the third year for the welcome with approximately 1000-1200 attendees including the Chancellor and Provost. Free food and drinks were provided and all schools were invited. There were also several school resource tables set up during the event. He expressed concern for the financial and logistical feasibility to continue the welcome in the current state and is actively looking for solutions.
Preview of Selection Process for Graduate Student Representatives to the BOT

Rachel Pepe outlined the selection process for graduate student representatives to the BOT. The general timeline from previous years stays the same. ProGrads will review applications on March 4, 2019 and interview candidates on March 21, 2019. She emphasized the importance for school representatives to advertise to their school and suggested the graduate school send an email to all graduate students. The two current BOT representatives will hold an information session on the Danforth and medical school campus next semester.

New Business

Danielle Bristow informed the committee that the Brown school is collecting base line data to determine the prevalence of food insecurity among graduate students at WashU. They are surveying their students to determine the need and are committed to addressing the issue following the results of the survey. She offered other schools the opportunities to join.

Sheri Notaro and James Parker provided details of listening sessions being conducted by Studio Ma, an Arizona-based architectural design firm. They have been hired to determine gaps in the student experience on and off campus for Danforth students. While it has primarily been focused on undergraduate students, graduate and professional students are being included in future sessions. Dean Tate expressed interest in having a very condensed report made to the ProGrads committee in the future.

James Parker stated that there would be free food and activities at the athletic complex before the upcoming home football game and asked that everyone to share with their students and colleagues.

Adjournment

Dean Tate adjourned the meeting at 3:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alex Reiter
Recording Official for the 2018-2019 ProGrads Committee
Graduate Student Representative to the Board of Trustees